
Media Release

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HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE JOINS FORCES WITH A NEW NETWORK OF GP PRACTICES...

This week Hamdon Medical Centre in Stoke-sub-Hamdon, became the latest GP practice to join forces with Symphony Healthcare Services (SHS), an NHS healthcare organisation, based in south Somerset. Hamdon Medical Centre joins healthcare colleagues from across eight existing practices within the organisation.

The announcement comes after the medical centre said a fond farewell to Dr Roger Bulley, who retired last month after 35 years in General Practice; caring for many patients in the local community.

Symphony Healthcare Services (SHS) is a subsidiary of Yeovil Hospital and was launched in April 2016 as part of the Symphony Programme vanguard, to provide much needed stability and sustainability for primary and secondary care in Somerset. Hamdon Medical Centre becomes the ninth practice that has chosen to join healthcare colleagues across SHS practices.

Senior GP Partner, Dr Kathryn Blaydes along with the existing healthcare team will continue to care for patients at Hamdon Medical Centre and will work closely with teams from across SHS to maintain and develop new healthcare services at the medical centre.

Dr Blaydes explained *“Following Dr Bulley’s decision to retire, we have spent a number of months researching the best options to secure a healthy future for the surgery and to ensure we can continue to provide a high quality healthcare service for our patients. We feel very confident that becoming part of a larger organisation and staying within the NHS, will enable us to develop new ways of delivering healthcare, to manage the growing demands on General Practice.*

I am excited to be taking on the role of the GP Clinical Lead at Hamdon Medical Centre and our existing experienced healthcare teams that many of our patients know so well, will continue to work at the centre. With the support of our colleagues in SHS, we will be looking to recruit an additional GP and hope that over time we will be able to introduce new healthcare roles that support our GPs and enable patients to better manage existing health conditions”

As a larger NHS organisation, Symphony Healthcare Services aims to enable closer working between GP practices and Yeovil Hospital, to help patients access the right services more easily than before. Practices joining SHS will benefit from additional operational support from a central support team and specialist clinical expertise from across the existing GP practices within SHS.

GP practices across SHS are working together to provide more choice and flexibility for patients through the introduction of new roles such as Health Coaches, Nurse Practitioners, Musculoskeletal Practitioners, Enhanced Care Practitioners and Pharmacists . Extending the specialist healthcare teams that can be accessed in Primary Care will help to increase the support available for patients’ whilst ensuring that GPs have the time to focus on the most complex patient needs.

SHS Medical Director and local GP, Dr Berge Balian added *“In Somerset, like much of the country, General Practice is under increasing pressure to cope with the rising challenges of GP recruitment and retention, as more GP partners choose to retire or work part-time. In addition, an ageing demographic and increasing numbers of patients with more complex long-term health conditions are placing a growing operational and financial strain on local GP practices. Symphony Healthcare Services was created to strengthen NHS primary care services and to support and enable GP practices to adapt and run healthcare services in a sustainable way.*

We are delighted that the team at Hamdon Medical Centre have joined our existing practices and look forward to working closely to help enhance the services we are able to offer our patients in the local community.”

Registered patients at Hamdon Medical Centre do not need to take any action. Any patients who need medical advice or treatment should contact the surgery in the usual way; by calling 01935 822236, or visiting the website: www.hamdonmc.co.uk, where a number of patient services are available on-line.

Ends

Notes to Editors

- Symphony Healthcare Services was formed as part of the Symphony Programme (PACS) vanguard – focussed on integrating primary and acute care systems that ran between 2015 and 2018.
- The Symphony Programme was focused on developing an integrated healthcare system to provide more individualised, flexible patient care in a cost effective and efficient way
- Symphony Healthcare Services (SHS) was first set up in April 2016, through a unique partnership between Yeovil District Hospital and GP practices in Somerset, to help support primary care to deal with the growing challenges of GP shortages and increasing, more complex patient healthcare needs.
- Buttercross Health Centre, Yeovil Health Centre and Ilchester Surgery joined SHS in 2016, followed by Highbridge Medical Centre, Crewkerne Health Centre, St Lukes & Greenswood Medical Centre in Brixham, Devon, Oaklands Surgery, Yeovil and Wincanton Health Centre in 2017.
- Since its initial launch, SHS has grown to support GP practices across a wider geographical area in the south west, in particular those practices who share the same challenges of recruiting and retaining GPs and an increasing demand on healthcare services from more complex long-term health conditions and an ageing demographic
- SHS will enable closer working between primary and secondary care and help patients to access the right care in the right place, as more specialist and integrated services are developed in the community.
- Practices will also benefit from the additional support of an experienced central team, providing support with back office functions as well as clinical expertise, enabling GPs and practice healthcare teams to focus more on patient care
- Through the Symphony Programme vanguard, new models of care have been introduced across 17 GP practices in south Somerset. New roles such as Health Coaches, MSK practitioners and Pharmacists have been introduced to provide additional support to patients to maintain a high quality of life at home, helping to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. A complex care service was also introduced as part of the model to help support patients with the most complex medical conditions.
- SHS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Yeovil Hospital and is managed by a separate, experienced healthcare team, providing Primary Care health services within the south west.

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