

The Future of GP Surgeries.

The pressure that GP surgeries are facing now and in the future is ever increasing. Demands on the day to day services and the patient expectation is well recorded and often at the forefront of any plans. The GP partners at Old School Medical Practice, serving the communities of Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe and other outlying villages, have been considering their options to improve all the services and access that patients currently have. Our ability to improve with what we have is an ever increasing challenge with an ever decreasing access to funding. NHS England sets out very demanding criteria to gain access to any development funding; indeed there is little or no funding available to improve existing surgeries. If any practice wants to develop its buildings and services, incorporate wider community health services and offer secondary care services to its patients within the community, it has to meet Government and NHS England plans to deliver such aspirations. The most important factors include collaboration with other GP surgeries in the area, expanding the surgery to offer a wider variation of both clinical and community based access, and bringing secondary care (hospital) services closer to home.

The partners at Old School Medical Practice have been working in partnership with a company Called GPI primary care property solution (a company with over 200 successfully completed GP development projects throughout the UK) to see how we can improve our overall premises and services. We keep coming back to the difficulties of getting access to NHS England development funding whilst trying to maintain the status quo. The realisation is that we can't unless we tick all the right boxes and meet all the criteria attached to funding. We truly have to be aspirational, transitional and deliver something that is also future proofed for continued development as a 21st century multi service primary care provider. With all this in mind we are looking to build a new surgery in a single location, bringing both the Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe surgeries together. Finding an ideal location is a big challenge in itself and it is unlikely that two separate sites would be funded. We have also approached other GP service provider in the area to consider supporting the project too; in addition we have approached the Vale of York CCG, York City Council, the Hospital Trust and York College. We have recently met our local parish council representatives to outline our plans, of which they have been very helpful and understanding. Nothing has been confirmed yet but we want to inform our communities that we are working very hard to get the best possible outcome given the tight conditions to access the funding. We are working very hard with our Patient Participation Group (PPG) who are supporting us to ensure our patient's consideration is at the forefront of any plans. We continue encourage all our patients to join the PPG and support the Practice in its aspirations to improve its services.