



IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ:
INFORMATION ONLY – NO ACTION
REQUIRED

Midlands and East (East)
Swift House
Hedgerows Business Park
Colchester Road
Chelmsford
Essex, CM2 5PF

(Patient Address)

XX September 2017

Dear Patient

RE: Re-scheduled meetings for patients of Wickford Health Centre (SEMC practice) to share views on proposed closure

NHS England wrote to you recently outlining proposals to not renew the contract it has with South Essex Managed Care (SEMC), which currently provides primary care services at your GP practice located within the Wickford Health Centre. The current contract is due to expire on 31 January 2018.

A meeting for patients to share their views was held on Wednesday 6 September 2017, however due to unexpected high attendance, the meeting could not continue in its intended format. Patients were assured at the meeting that further meetings would be arranged. Those present requested that any future meetings be in close proximity to the Wickford Health Centre and that only one meeting is held so patients can come together to share their views collectively. However, due to venue capacity and availability, options have been limited. NHS England has therefore met with both the mayor of Basildon and the chairperson of your GP practice's Patient Participation Group (PPG) to discuss the best approach to future meetings.

Given the expected high interest in the rescheduled meetings, it has been necessary to schedule a number of different meetings to give everyone the opportunity to share their views. There will be a booking system to ensure that meetings are not oversubscribed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Wickford Community Centre for their support in making the venue available for these events and rescheduling prior bookings.

There are two types of events scheduled: drop in sessions and group meetings. The **drop in sessions** provide the opportunity for you to speak to an NHS England or NHS Basildon and Brentwood CCG representative on a one-to one basis, hear the plans, ask any questions you may have or, discuss your concerns. There will be 10 minute slots available by appointment only.

The **group meetings** are opportunities to hear the plans, ask any questions you may have or

discuss your concerns. These events will be held at Wickford Community Centre, opposite Wickford Health Centre, which holds a maximum of 200 people. To ensure that fire regulations are not breached, we will not be able to admit more than 200 people to the meeting so you will need to reserve a place to attend.

Both the drop in sessions and the public events will share the same information. **We respectfully ask that you do not attend multiple sessions as we would like to speak to as many different people as possible.**

Please remember to book a space for the event of your choice. You will not be able to attend any of the events if you have not contacted us to reserve your place.

- **Drop in sessions:**
17 and 18 October 2017, 4.30pm - 6.30pm at Wickford Community Centre (Main Hall), Market Road, Wickford, SS12 0AG
These are drop in events for individuals, not group meetings and will provide patients with the opportunity to meet individually with representatives from NHS England and NHS Basildon and Brentwood CCG. Please call 0113 824 9106 or email england.sweprimarycare@nhs.net to book a slot.
- **Group meetings:**
17 and 18 October 2017, 7.30pm - 9pm at Wickford Community Centre (Main Hall), Market Road, Wickford, SS12 0AG
These are group meetings starting promptly at 7.30pm. Please book a place on one of the dates and come along to share your views with representatives from NHS England and NHS Basildon and Brentwood CCG. Please visit www.goo.gl/R6rbS1 or call 0113 824 9106 to register for this event.

If you cannot attend any of these events, but have any questions or concerns please direct these to:

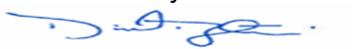
- Healthwatch Essex on 0300 500 1895 or email info@healthwatchessex.org.uk
- NHS England on 0113 824 9106 or email england.sweprimarycare@nhs.net

To remind you, NHS England and NHS Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are looking to bring together and strengthen GP services in the Wickford area, and there are a number of other GP practices in very close proximity. If the proposal to not renew the current contract held by SEMC goes ahead, patients would be asked to register with another GP practice in the area. **Please note, you do not need to register with another GP practice at the moment.** This letter is to inform you of our proposed plans only and how you can share your views. We will contact you again following our engagement with patients to update you on the latest plans.

This proposal will not see the Wickford Health Centre building close. The building will remain open and NHS England is working with the landlord on plans for a refurbishment of the site in the future. The other GP practice based within the Wickford Health Centre building (Swanwood Surgery) will remain open to patients.

Please note this letter has been sent to patients aged 16 years and over so please ensure that you share this information with anyone else in your household who is registered with Wickford Health Centre

Yours sincerely



David Barter
Interim Head of Commissioning

NHS England Midlands and East (East)