

## **Information Re Proposed Merger of Plumstead Health Centre PMS & Trinity Medical Centre**

Plumstead Health Centre PMS & Trinity Medical Centre have since 2019 been in discussions to work more collaboratively with the aim to merge.

The practices have already been working in more integrated way and the Partners are the same for both practices, some staff already provide functions for both practices.

Both Trinity and PHC are now members of Unity Primary Care Network.

The merger will complete the process and link clinical systems enabling patients to have access to more clinicians and for Trinity patients the access to the Tewson Road site also. It will also enable continuity of care with the clinicians they know in the premises they know staffed by people they know, as well as supporting the retirement plans of colleagues.

The merger would also and most importantly prevent the risk of Trinity being closed and the patient list being dispersed to neighbouring practices, which would be destabilising for both practices.

The merger would also aid the patients of the practices to have continuous care in a consistent manner and focus upon the improvements recommended by CQC.

The merger would we believe allow the practices to provide an improved service to our patients in terms of patient access, with more sites, more clinicians available and more effective back office functions being able to take advantage of larger scale.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has led to the need for General Practice to adapt in the way services are provided, and the introduction of video consultations and more remote style of working, whilst still providing essential face to face consultations when clinically needed. Both practices are responding to the situation and have also introduced online consultation methods and adapted processes in order to respond to the needs of our patients, in order to ensure those in need are supported whilst maintaining the safety of staff and patients.

The practices are also aware of the very real risk of clinical and admin staff potentially being temporary or permanently unavailable due to the situation and therefore destabilizing services, and therefore would like to progress the merger of the practices in order to provide the resilience to ensure the continuity and stability of services to our patients.

The Partners at both Trinity Medical Centre and Plumstead Health Centre would like to progress with the merger and to submit the case to SELCCG in December 2021 with the practices merging as of 1st April 2022.

