

Thamesmead Health Centre Webinar

6th August 2024

Introduction

On 31st March 2025, the current contract for GP services at Thamesmead Health Centre ends and a new contract holder is being sought.

- Through this webinar we aim to:
 - Explain what is happening and what this means for patients;
 - Set out the process that we are following to meet our responsibilities;
 - Set out how the new provider will be chosen;
 - Answer questions about the process being followed
- Please submit questions via the chat function.
- We will answer as many questions as we can during this session and will also publish answers to questions submitted following the event.

What is Happening

- Thamesmead Health Centre has been managed by AT Medics since April 2015 under an Alternative Provider of Medical Services (APMS) contract
- The contract has previously been extended and there is now no provision to extend the contract further.
- A full procurement was agreed as the way to find the best provider for Thamesmead and the patients registered at the practice
- A Publication of Invitation to Tender (ITT) has been started and will close on Friday 9th August.
- Any provider can submit a bid for the contract including the current provider
- A new APMS contract will be awarded for 5+5+5 years (15 Years) with possible long-term extension

What does this mean for patients

- Your GP Services will continue uninterrupted
- The surgery will not close. Thamesmead Health Centre will continue to operate as usual.
- You do not need to change doctors or register with a new surgery.
- The new provider will take over the employment of the practice team
- All GP practices are private businesses and work under contract to the NHS and whether owned by GPs or other organisations they must meet the same regulatory standards that apply to all NHS providers.
- The new contract is an opportunity to find a provider that is fully committed to Thamesmead and the surrounding community for the longer term

How the new provider will be chosen

Tender process

- The opportunity for bidders to tender for the contract closed on 9th August.
- They have been asked many questions including on
 - Clinical Care
 - Staff Management
 - Financial viability
 - Support for those with long-term conditions including mental health needs
 - How the practice will meet patients' cultural needs and support those where English is not their first language
 - Patient involvement and support for Carers
- The process is rigorous, and review of the applications will be undertaken by an evaluation panel of experts in the area.

Patient Involvement in the selection

- The bidders have been provided with a report on population details and patient feedback from complaints and patient surveys
- They will need to describe how they will respond to this report
- Two members of your patient group and a Healthwatch representative are part of the evaluation panel
- Their role is to ensure patients are at the centre of choosing the new provider
- They will be invited to hear presentations from the final selection of bidders.

Time Frame

September- October 2024

14th – 18th October 2024

End of October

November 2024

End of November

Early December

16th December

1st April 2025

Evaluation and Moderation of Bids

Bidder Presentation

Highest scoring providers identified

Healthier Greenwich Partnership Board agreed decision

All Bidders notified of decision

2 Week Standstill period

Mobilisation and Possible Handover period

New contract begins

Conclusions

- Over the next six months a provider of GP services for Thamesmead Health Centre will be chosen
- This may be unsettling for staff and patients, but the aim is to continue services normally throughout this time
- Outcome will be a provider for the longer term that has best described how it will support and meet the needs of patients and staff
- The contract will be monitored to ensure effective delivery of services
- Updates on the contract procurement will be provided on the website <https://www.selondonics.org/ThamesmeadHC> and on the practice website at periodic intervals

Questions

Thank you

We will ensure that we publish and update the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on all questions raised today on our website.

For further information please visit website <https://www.selondonics.org/ThamesmeadHC>

Or use the QR Code below

