

Agenda Item 10

Report to (Board/Sub-Committee):	Joint Co-Commissioning Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 July 2017
Subject:	Notification of decision to support a temporary list closure for Birkwood Medical Centre for up to 6 months
Presented by:	Geoff Day, Head of Primary Care, NHS England

STATUS OF THE REPORT

For Information x

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	<p>NHS England received a request from Birkwood Medical Centre to temporarily close the practice list for a period of up to 6 months. The primary reason for this is in relation to increased workload following the merger with Dr Hussain’s Practice and the current level of staff vacancies within the practice</p> <p>A virtual decision was taken by the relevant officers within NHS England and the CCG to temporarily close the list for 6 months.</p> <p>The attached paper provides the full background, for information.</p>
Recommendations:	The Committee is asked to note the decision made by officers within NHS England and the CCG in accordance with the scheme of delegation.
Sub Committee Process and Assurance:	The decision outlined within this report is in line with the agreed Scheme of Delegation for the Co-Commissioning Committee.
Implications:	
Risk Assurance Framework Implications:	N/A
Legal Implications:	N/A

Equality Impact Assessment implications:	N/A
Finance Implications:	N/A
Quality Implications:	Supporting the temporary list closure will allow the Practice to provide safe care for their registered patients and carry out their contractual obligations to meet their Patients core clinical needs.
Procurement Decisions/Implications (Care Contracting Committee):	N/A
Engagement Implications:	NHS England has consulted with stakeholders regarding the request from the practice for the temporary list closure.
Conflicts of Interest	N/A
Strategic Objectives <i>Short summary as to how the report links to the CCG's strategic objectives</i>	1. <i>Sustainable Services</i> N/A
	2. <i>Empowering People</i> N/A
	3. <i>Supporting Communities</i> N/A
	4. <i>Delivering a fit for purpose organisation</i> The temporary list closure allows Dr Babu to focus on completion of the CQC action plan.
NHS Constitution:	 NHS_Constitution_WE B.pdf <i>Does the report and its recommendations comply with the requirements of the NHS constitution? Yes</i> <i>If Yes, please summarise key issues</i>
Report exempt from Public Disclosure	No
Appendices / attachments	Report attached

Application for
temporary List
Closure –
Birkwood
Medical Centre



Introduction

Birkwood Medical Centre (Practice Code – B81087) has applied to temporarily close their list for a period of six months. The practice is located at the following address:-

Westward HO
Grimsby
DN34 5 DX

The practice is made up of the following GPs and Health Care Professionals:-

Health Care Professional	Total Number employed	WTE
GPs	4	3.5
Practice Based Pharmacists	0	0
Advanced Care Practitioners	0	0
Physicians Associates	0	0
Practice Nurses	1	0.5
Health Care Assistants	2	2
Other: (Please define)	0	0

The table below confirms the list size over the past 12 months:-

Quarter 1 30/06/2016	Quarter 2 30/09/2016	Quarter 3 31/12/2016	Quarter 4 31/03/2017	Total movement from 30/06/2016 to 31/03/2017	% increase / decrease
7,278	7,289	7,290	9,102	1,824	25.06%

Regulations

The Policy Book for Primary Medical Services – Chapter 9 – Managing Patient Lists allow for a contractor to apply to NHS England to close their list.

Practice application

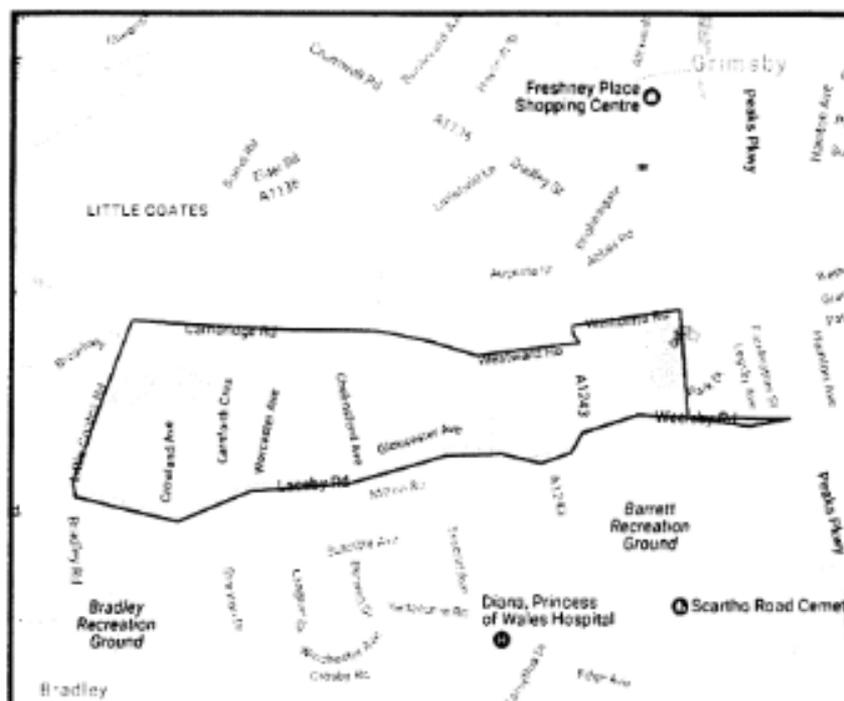
The practice application has included the following information:-

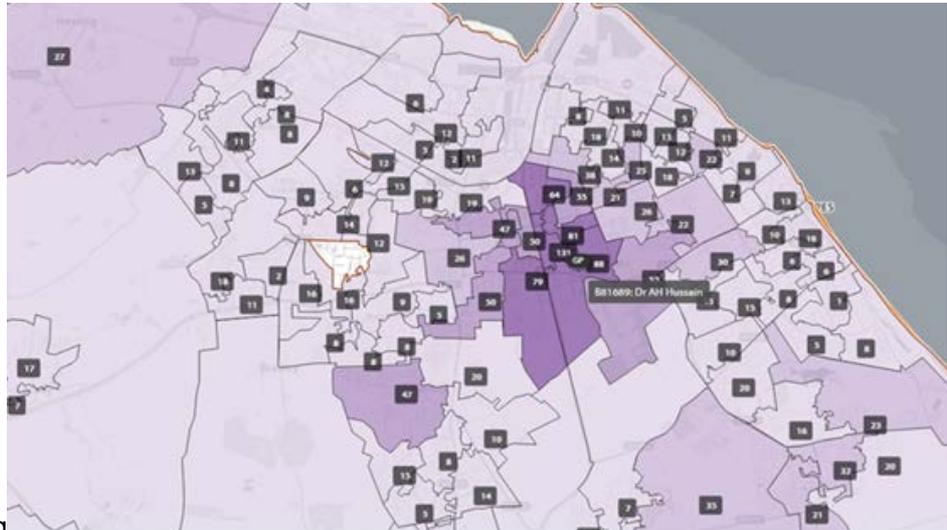
- The Practice described how, since the merger with Dr Hussain's Practice, the workload for the Clinician's has increased significantly. The Practice has 9,094 registered patients across three full time GP Partners and one Part time Salaried GP. One Advanced nurse Practitioner left at the beginning of March and the Practices' Nurse Prescriber recently retired along with a Full Time Practice Nurse who left in April to work in the Community. Dr Hussain brought approximately 1,800 patients upon merging with Birkwood Medical Centre and many of these patients have found the transition to the new practice difficult and have challenging behaviours and care needs. The Practice has experienced a significant increase in abusive and aggressive patients who are making unreasonable demands for service.

- The Partners feel that the present level of workload has the potential to jeopardise their ability to provide safe care for their registered patients and carry out their contractual obligations to meet their Patients core clinical needs. The Practice feel that they need to concentrate on the Patients currently registered to ensure that a safe service continues to be provided.
- The Practice has looked at several different options for appointments and clinics.
- The Practice are involved in the NELCCG International Recruitment Campaign.
- The practice is part of the Panacea Collaborative and the group is considering exploring alternative models of working.
- The Practice are considering a Clinical Pharmacist bid; this is now an option for the practice as being part of a collaborative it is something that can be looked at with other practices.
- The Practice has reviewed their Practice List in relation to out of area Patients and as many of Dr Hussain's Patients fall outside the Practice boundary, re- defining the catchment area is being looked into.
- The Practice has plans to work with the Productive GP Programme to review ways of working both in Clinical and Administrative fields.
- The Practice have utilised Locum GPs for a short period to try and alleviate the pressures and reduce the workload and backlog.
- The Practice are planning to take this application to the next Participation Group Meeting in May, it has previously been touched on in previous meetings, particularly since the Practice Merger.
- The GP Partners and Management feel that the current situation is unsustainable. There are four other practices locally that currently have closed lists indicating that there are difficulties with maintaining open lists. The Practice have discussed informally with neighbouring Practice Managers and GP Colleagues and the Practice feel that the general consensus is that General Practice is currently under significant pressure in terms of workload and the decision to close a patient list is only taken as a last resort.
- The practice has highlighted that they would appreciate support in the Provision of a Salaried GP or a long term Locum to help with appointments, paperwork, visits and all relevant GP services, Additional funding to employ an Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Prescriber and to offer support with the list closure and consider an extension of a further six months if this is necessary.

- Practice Plans to alleviate the difficulties the practice is currently experiencing have included the following:
 - Continue their search for an additional Salaried GP and or advanced nurse Practitioner.
 - The practice has in place a recruitment campaign to replace a Practice Nurse.
 - The Practice is awaiting support from the Productive GP Programme to look at possible alternative ways of working in Clinical and Administrative fields.
 - The Practice continues to trial alternative ways to operate the GP clinics, i.e. Triage, Appointments, Walk in etc.
- The Practice have provided maps, as attached below, of the Birkwood Medical Centre Catchment area and a map showing patient mapping for Dr Hussain. The latter covers a much wider area and has no specific catchment area, only a Practice Boundary. The Practice is looking to re-visit this and agree a more definitive area.

Catchment Area





Dr Hussain's Practice Mapping

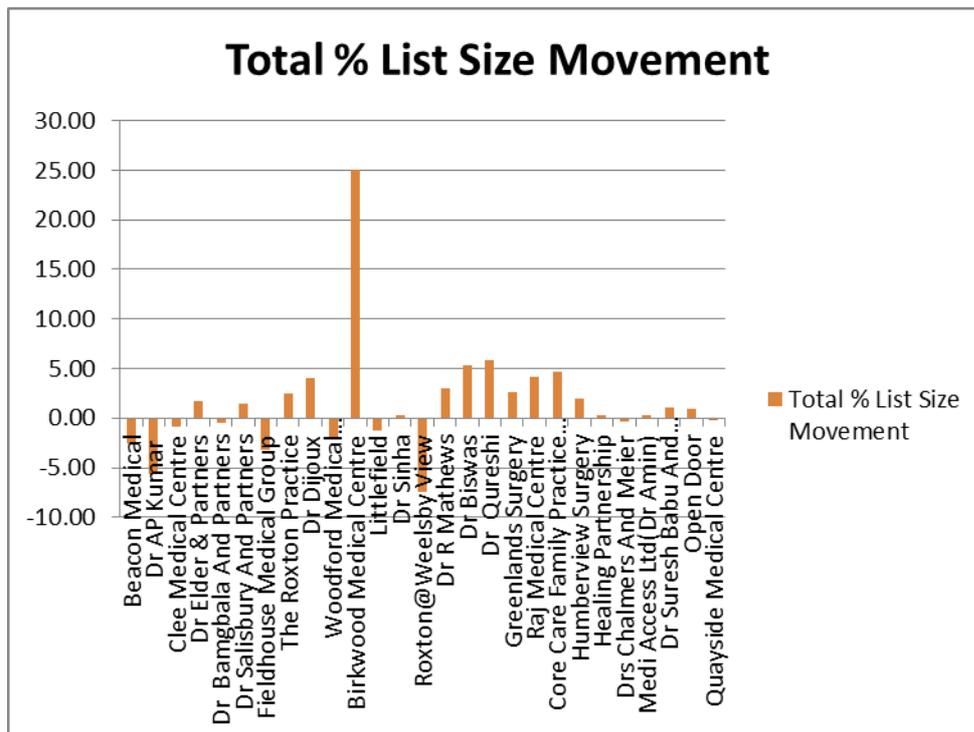
Consultation with neighbouring practices and LMC

In line with NHS England's "Managing Closed lists" policy, the following neighbouring practices, the CCG and the LMC Group Humberside have been consulted.

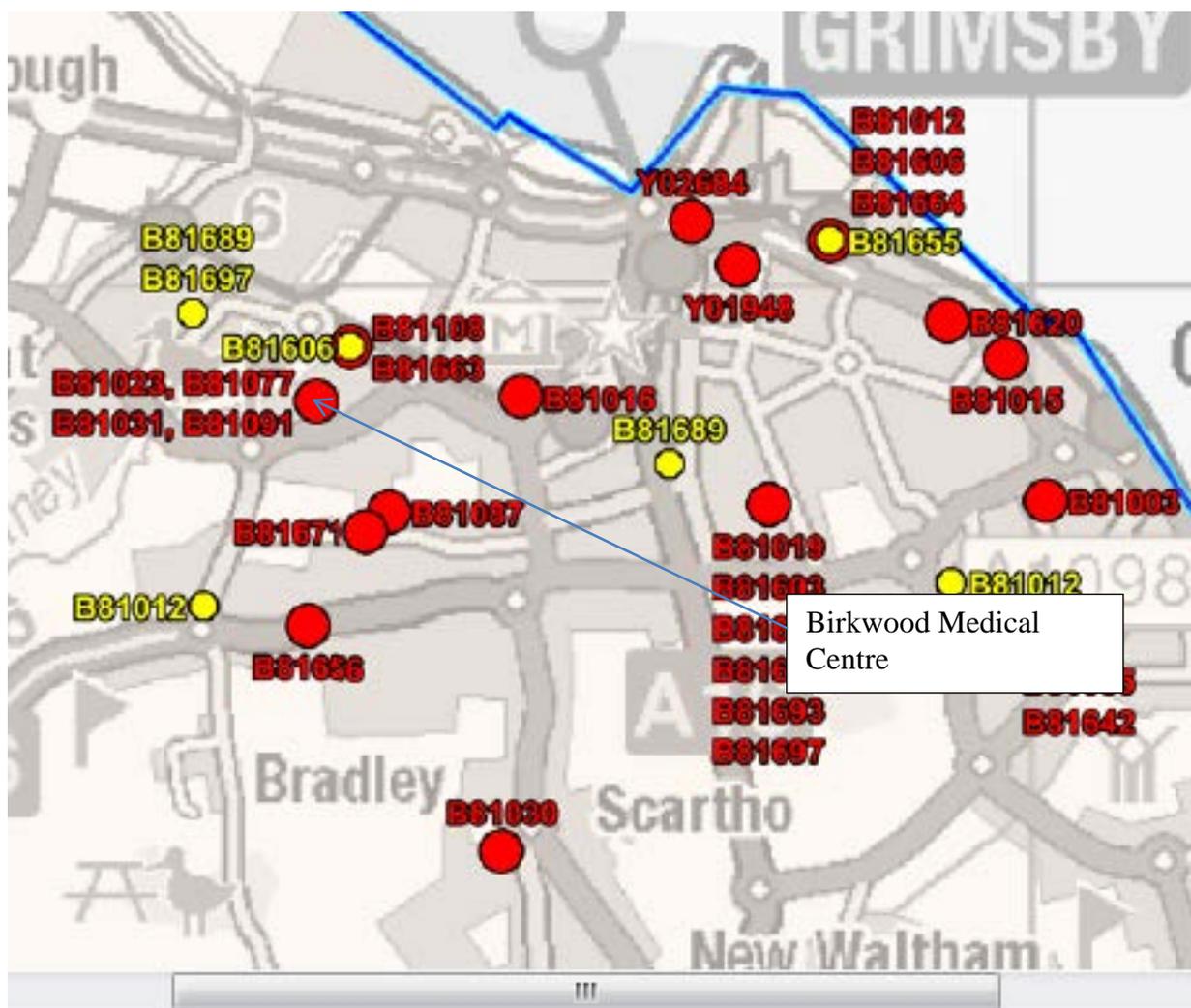
The two following tables demonstrate the changes in list sizes over the past year for the neighbouring practices.

Practice	Practice Code	% List size increase / decrease over past 12 months	Open/Closed List
Beacon Medical	B81003	-2.52	Open
Dr AP Kumar	B81012	-5.67	Open
Clee Medical Centre	B81015	-0.92	Open
Dr Elder & Partners	B81016	1.65	Open
Dr Bangbala And Partners	B81023	-0.43	Open
Dr Salisbury And Partners	B81030	1.43	Open
Fieldhouse Medical Group	B81031	-3.21	Closure Approved until 31/8/17
The Roxton Practice	B81039	2.53	Open
Dr Dijoux	B81055	4.02	Open
Woodford Medical Practice	B81077	-1.86	Closure Approved until 31/8/17
Birkwood Medical Centre	B81087	25.06	Application
Littlefield	B81091	-1.22	Closure Approved until 31/12/17
Dr Sinha	B81108	0.33	Open

Roxton@Weelsby View	B81603	-7.47	Open
Dr R Mathews	B81606	3.01	Open
Dr Biswas	B81620	5.31	Open
Dr Qureshi	B81642	5.85	Open
Greenlands Surgery	B81655	2.64	Open
Raj Medical Centre	B81656	4.14	Open
Core Care Family Practice - Grimsby	B81663	4.63	Open
Humberview Surgery	B81664	1.96	Open
Healing Partnership	B81665	0.28	Open
Drs Chalmers And Meier	B81677	-0.38	Open
Medi Access Ltd(Dr Amin)	B81693	0.24	Open
Dr Suresh Babu And Partners	B81697	1.07	Closure Approved until 22/7/17
Open Door	Y01948	0.88	Open
Quayside Medical Centre	Y02684	-0.27	Open



Please see attached Map which identifies the practices within the local area by their practice code, establishing proximity of neighbouring practices.



Comments received following the consultation:-

Practice	Comments received
Dr Sinha	<p>We have previously responded to other applications such as this so will like to make the same general comments for consideration please. We do not know what the exact circumstances are in relation to Birkwood making the application, they may have very justifiable reasons and needs.</p> <p>Nearly all the applications in the past year to close lists have been from practices that are geographically local to Cromwell Primary Care Centre, we ourselves are struggling as a practice to recruit a GP. Please can you just consider the other local practices this may affect if registrations end up being re-directed, as there are several other practices in the area that also have either a closed or partially closed</p>

	<p>lists (they just need to ensure they maintain numbers) and together they can all have a knock on effect for those of us with open lists, thanks.</p>
<p>Pelham Medical Group</p>	<p>We have reviewed the request. We understand practices locally are struggling with capacity, and have no doubt that Birkwood are finding it difficult. We too are feeling the pressures. The concern we have is that this could be another practice with a closed list within close vicinity to ourselves (3 recently closed at Freshney) and now leaves only a few practices in the immediate area who have open lists.</p> <p>Following the recent list closures of the Freshney Green practices we expressed our concerns of a possible chain reaction. In response to our feedback NHS England asked us to submit a resilience funding bid, which we have done (submitted 17th March), though not yet received any response. In the bid we have explained that our GP staffing is 1.85WTEs less than in 2014, with a broadly similar list size. Since July 2015 we have seen a net increase of >350 patients in the year to 31 March 2017, a 3% growth. Our concern is that this % growth will further increase placing more pressure on those with open lists. As a result we would be considering making an application to reduce our practice boundary and would be grateful if you could advise how we might do this.</p>
<p>Scartho Medical Centre</p>	<p>Our comments would be the same as those we have previously submitted for other practices' requests, with the closures at the 3 practices at Freshney Green it was only a matter of time before this impacted on Birkwood, who is geographically the closest practice to Freshney Green.</p> <p>The existing closures, and now incorporating Birkwood, will continue to have a strain on the neighbouring practices of which we are one. It will continue to have a knock on effect to all local practices, and also to the patients who will find themselves outside of the boundaries of the remaining practices who have their lists open – where do they go?</p>
<p>LMC</p>	<p>The LMC has considered the application for Birkwood Medical Centre for temporary list closure.</p> <p>General practice is currently under significant pressure in terms of workload and practices that apply to close their lists do not undertake such an application lightly. If a practice considers that their level of workload is jeopardising their ability to provide safe care for their registered patients, or to carry out their contractual obligations to meet their patients' core clinical needs then it may be appropriate for a practice to apply to close their list</p>

	<p>and in such circumstances the LMC would support this approach.</p> <p>In the case of Birkwood Medical Centre they have also recently merged with Dr Hussain's practice which has led to some specific issues in relation to patients and demand for services which are outlined in their application and have further increased the pressure in relation to workload and safe service delivery.</p> <p>In addition they have significantly reduced nursing capacity due to a combination of retirement and staff leaving the practice and as yet have been unsuccessful in the recruitment of replacements.</p> <p>They are considering a number of options to try and manage the situation in the meantime including alternative models of working, engaging in the productive GP programme and trialing alternative ways to operate GP clinics whilst also continuing to try and recruit a salaried GP or advanced nurse practitioner.</p> <p>The LMC supports this application for temporary list closure.</p>
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Additional factors to be considered by the Committee

A meeting was held with the Practice, NHS England and the CCG on the 12 April 2017. The Practice confirmed that they have 3.5 clinicians working with some adhoc locum cover, 2 practice nurses and 2 HCA. There is currently no Nurse practitioner and no funds to enable the practice to employ one.

The Practice is committed to being a Training Practice and wishes to continue doing so. Birkwood Surgery merged with Dr Hussain's practice in October 2016 and Dr Hussain moved to the premises from Weelsby View Health Centre. The practice explained that this has brought increased workloads due to the demands of these patients.

Actions discussed to support the practice are as follows:-

- Funding towards Nurse Practitioner (not really viable)
- Remove out of area patients, reducing the Practice Boundary
- Work with Panacea Grouping to share back office functions etc.
- Consider Clinical Pharmacist bid across federation
- International Recruitment campaign participation
- Work with Productive General Practice Scheme

North East Lincolnshire Joint Co-Commissioning Committee is asked to:-

Note the decision made to temporarily close the list for 6 months by officers within the CCG, in accordance with the scheme of delegation.