

St Stephens House Surgery

Quality Report

St Stephens House
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This report describes our judgement of the quality of care at this service. It is based on a combination of what we found when we inspected, information from our ongoing monitoring of data about services and information given to us from the provider, patients, the public and other organisations.

Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Good



Are services safe?

Requires improvement



Are services effective?

Good



Are services caring?

Good



Are services responsive to people's needs?

Good



Are services well-led?

Good



Summary of findings

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Overall summary

Letter from the Chief Inspector of General Practice

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection at St Stephens House Surgery on 6 September 2016. Overall the practice is rated as Good.

Our key findings across all the areas we inspected were as follows:

- Patients said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect and they were involved in their care and decisions about their treatment.
- Staff assessed patients' needs and delivered care in line with current evidence based guidance. Staff had been trained to provide them with the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.
- There was an open and transparent approach to safety and an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events.
- Risks to patients were not always assessed and well managed.
- Information about services and how to complain was available and easy to understand. Improvements were made to the quality of care as a result of complaints and concerns.
- Patients said they found it easy to make an appointment with a named GP and there was continuity of care, with urgent appointments available the same day.
- The practice had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs.
- There was a clear leadership structure and staff felt supported by management. The practice proactively sought feedback from staff and patients, which it acted on.
- The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the duty of candour.
- Data from the national GP patient survey showed patients rated the practice higher than others for several aspects of care. This included how GPs and nurses listened to patients, treated them with care and concern, patient's confidence and trust, access to the practice and the patients overall experience.

Summary of findings

The areas where the provider must make improvement are:

- The provider must ensure that the medicines fridge is kept secure at all times.
- The provider must ensure that they monitor and maintain a record of the stock and use of the computer and hand written prescription pads used in the practice.
- The provider must ensure that they have a business continuity plan in place to maintain services to patients in the event of major incidents.
- The provider must ensure records for staff required by regulation are in place and maintained on record. This includes criminal records checks via the Disclosure and Barring Service and risk assessment of all staff in relation to unsupervised access to patients.
- The provider must ensure that the records of significant events are fully documented including the review of the event and the actions taken as a result of this review.

- The provider must ensure a health and safety assessment is put in place and this includes the risk of legionella.

The areas where the provider should make improvement are:

- The provider should review and continue to take action to identify carers who are patients at their practice.
- The provider should monitor and ensure the appraisal system is fully embedded and delivered to all staff.
- The provider should review the current system for recording staff training to ensure up to date information can be readily obtained.

Professor Steve Field (CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP)

Chief Inspector of General Practice

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Are services safe?

The practice is rated as requires improvement for providing safe services.

Requires improvement



- There was an effective system in place for reporting and recording significant events
- Lessons were shared with GP colleagues to make sure action was taken to improve safety in the practice. However the records of this learning and dissemination was not always recorded.
- When things went wrong patients received reasonable support, truthful information, and a written apology. They were told about any actions to improve processes to prevent the same thing happening again.
- The practice had clearly defined and embedded systems, processes and practices in place to keep patients safe and safeguarded from abuse.
- Risks to patients were not always assessed and well managed. For example the practice did not have a health and safety risk assessment or legionella risk assessment.
- Not all recruitment checks had been completed. This included the DBS check for staff with unsupervised access to patients...

Are services effective?

The practice is rated as good for providing effective services.

Good



- Data from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) showed patient outcomes were at or above average compared to the national average.
- Staff assessed needs and delivered care in line with current evidence based guidance.
- Clinical audits demonstrated quality improvement.
- Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.
- There was evidence of appraisals and personal development plans for all staff. However this recently introduced system was yet to be delivered to all staff and embedded.
- Staff worked with other health care professionals to understand and meet the range and complexity of patients' needs.

Are services caring?

The practice is rated as good for providing caring services.

Good



Summary of findings

- Data from the national GP patient survey showed patients rated the practice higher than others for several aspects of care.
- Patients said they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect and they were involved in decisions about their care and treatment.
- Information for patients about the services available was easy to understand and accessible.
- We saw staff treated patients with kindness and respect, and maintained patient and information confidentiality.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

The practice is rated as good for providing responsive services.

Good



- Practice staff reviewed the needs of its local population and engaged with the NHS England Area Team and Clinical Commissioning Group to secure improvements to services where these were identified.
- Patients said they found it easy to make an appointment with a named GP and there was continuity of care, with urgent appointments available the same day.
- The practice had good facilities and was well equipped to treat patients and meet their needs.
- Information about how to complain was available and easy to understand and evidence showed the practice responded quickly to issues raised. Learning from complaints was shared with staff and other stakeholders.

Are services well-led?

The practice is rated as good for being well-led.

Good



- The practice had a clear vision and strategy to deliver high quality care and promote good outcomes for patients. Staff were clear about the vision and their responsibilities in relation to it.
- There was a clear leadership structure and staff felt supported by management. The practice had a number of policies and procedures to govern activity and held regular governance meetings.
- There was an overarching governance framework which supported the delivery of the strategy and good quality care. This included arrangements to monitor and improve quality and identify risk.

Summary of findings

- The provider was aware of and complied with the requirements of the duty of candour. The partners encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The practice had systems in place for notifiable safety incidents and ensured this information was shared with staff to ensure appropriate action was taken
- The practice proactively sought feedback from staff and patients, which it acted on. The patient participation group was very active and worked with the staff team to develop the services provided.
- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels.

Summary of findings

The six population groups and what we found

We always inspect the quality of care for these six population groups.

Older people

The practice is rated as good for the care of older people.

Good



- The practice offered proactive, personalised care to meet the needs of the older people in its population.
- The practice was responsive to the needs of older people, and offered home visits and urgent appointments for those with enhanced needs.
- The practice has regular meetings with the Proactive Care Team to help avoid admissions. The practice provides an enhanced service for unplanned admissions – a register of the most vulnerable patients - with care plans and reviews following any unplanned hospital admissions.

People with long term conditions

The practice is rated as good for the care of people with long-term conditions.

Good



- Nursing staff had lead roles in chronic disease management and patients at risk of hospital admission were identified as a priority.
- Performance for diabetes related indicators was comparable to the national average in some areas and higher in others. For example, the percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, in whom the last blood pressure reading (measured in the preceding 12 months) is 140/80 mmHg or less was 71% compared to the CCG average of 74% and national average of 78%. The percentage of patients on the diabetes register, with a record of a foot examination and risk classification within the preceding 12 months was 94 % compared to the CCG average of 81% and the national average of 88%.
- Longer appointments and home visits were available when needed.
- All these patients had a named GP and a structured annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being met. For those patients with the most complex needs, the named GP worked with relevant health and care professionals to deliver a multidisciplinary package of care.

Families, children and young people

The practice is rated as good for the care of families, children and young people.

Good



Summary of findings

- There were systems in place to identify and follow up children living in disadvantaged circumstances and who were at risk, for example, children and young people who had a high number of A&E attendances. Immunisation rates were relatively high for all standard childhood immunisations.
- Patients told us that children and young people were treated in an age-appropriate way and were recognised as individuals, and we saw evidence to confirm this.
- The practice's uptake for the cervical screening programme was 86%, which was comparable to the CCG average of 81%, the same as the national average of 82%.
- Appointments were available outside of school hours and the premises were suitable for children and babies.
- We saw positive examples of joint working with midwives and health visitors.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students)

The practice is rated as good for the care of working-age people (including those recently retired and students).

- The needs of the working age population, those recently retired and students had been identified and the practice had adjusted the services it offered to ensure these were accessible, flexible and offered continuity of care.
- The practice was proactive in offering online services as well as a full range of health promotion and screening that reflects the needs for this age group.

Good



People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable

The practice is rated as good for the care of people whose circumstances may make them vulnerable.

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including homeless people, travellers and those with a learning disability.
- The practice offered longer appointments for patients with a learning disability.
- The practice regularly worked with other health care professionals in the case management of vulnerable patients.
- The practice informed vulnerable patients about how to access various support groups and voluntary organisations.

Good



Summary of findings

- Staff knew how to recognise signs of abuse in vulnerable adults and children. Staff were aware of their responsibilities regarding information sharing, documentation of safeguarding concerns and how to contact relevant agencies in normal working hours and out of hours.

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia)

The practice is rated as good for the care of people experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia).

- 78% of patients diagnosed with dementia had had their care reviewed in a face to face meeting in the last 12 months, which was comparable to the national average of 84%.
- Performance for mental health related indicators was better than the CCG and national average. For example, the percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses who have a comprehensive, agreed care plan documented in the record, in the preceding 12 months was 98% compared to the CCG average of 89% and national average of 88%.
- The practice regularly worked with multi-disciplinary teams in the case management of patients experiencing poor mental health, including those with dementia.
- The practice carried out advance care planning for patients with dementia.
- The practice had told patients experiencing poor mental health about how to access various support groups and voluntary organisations.
- The practice had a system in place to follow up patients who had attended accident and emergency where they may have been experiencing poor mental health.
- Staff had a good understanding of how to support patients with mental health needs and dementia.

Good



Summary of findings

What people who use the service say

The national GP patient survey results were published in January 2016. The results showed the practice was performing above the local and national averages. 236 survey forms were distributed and 122 were returned. This represented approximately 2% of the practice's patient list.

- 95% of patients found it easy to get through to this practice by phone compared to the national average of 73%.
- 87% of patients were able to get an appointment to see or speak to someone the last time they tried compared to the national average of 76%.
- 96% of patients described the overall experience of this GP practice as good compared to the national average of 85%).

- 96% of patients said they would recommend this GP practice to someone who has just moved to the local area compared to the national average of 79%).

As part of our inspection we also asked for CQC comment cards to be completed by patients prior to our inspection. We received 20 comment cards, all contained positive comments about the standard of care received. Patients commented on a caring, professional and helpful practice team. Patients felt listened to and treated with kindness. One comment card spoke of issues with mistakes when booking appointments.

We spoke with three patients during the inspection. All patients said they were satisfied with the care they received and thought staff were approachable, supportive and caring.

Areas for improvement

Action the service **MUST** take to improve

- The provider must ensure that the medicines fridge is kept secure at all times.
- The provider must ensure that they monitor and maintain a record of the stock and use of the computer and hand written prescription pads used in the practice.
- The provider must ensure that they have a business continuity plan in place to maintain services to patients in the event of major incidents.
- The provider must ensure records for staff required by regulation are in place and maintained on record. This includes criminal records checks via the Disclosure and Barring Service and risk assessment of all staff in relation to unsupervised access to patients.

- The provider must ensure that the records of significant events are fully documented including the review of the event and the actions taken as a result of this review.
- The provider must ensure a health and safety assessment is put in place and this includes the risk of legionella.

Action the service **SHOULD** take to improve

- The provider should review and continue to take action to identify carers who are patients at their practice.
- The provider should monitor and ensure the appraisal system is fully embedded and delivered to all staff.
- The provider should review the current system for recording staff training to ensure up to date information can be readily obtained.

St Stephens House Surgery

Detailed findings

Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by:

Our inspection team was led by a CQC Lead Inspector. The team included a GP specialist adviser.

Background to St Stephens House Surgery

St Stephens House Surgery is practice offering general medical services to the population of Ashted in Surrey. There are approximately 5,678 registered patients.

The practice population has a higher number of patients between 0-4 and 50+ years of age and a lower number of patients aged between 15 and 34 than the national and local CCG average. There are a similar number of patients with a longstanding health condition of 48% compared to the CCG average of 52% and national average of 54%. The percentage of registered patients suffering deprivation (affecting both adults and children) is lower than the average for both the CCG area and England.

St Stephens House Surgery is run by three partner GPs (female). The practice is also supported by a salaried GP (Female), three practice nurses, a healthcare assistant, a team of administrative and reception staff, and a practice manager.

The practice runs a number of services for its patients including asthma clinics, diabetes clinics, coronary heart disease clinics, minor surgery, child immunisation clinics, new patient checks and travel vaccines and advice.

Services are provided from one location:

St Stephens House Surgery

St Stephens House

Ashted

Surrey

KT21 2DP

Opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm
Monday to Friday.

During the times when the practice is closed arrangements are in place for patients to access care from Care UK which is an Out of Hours provider.

Why we carried out this inspection

We carried out a comprehensive inspection of this service under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. The inspection was planned to check whether the provider is meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008, to look at the overall quality of the service, and to provide a rating for the service under the Care Act 2014.

How we carried out this inspection

Before visiting, we reviewed a range of information we hold about the practice and asked other organisations to share what they knew. We carried out an announced visit on 6 September 2016. During our visit we:

- Spoke with a range of staff including GPs, nurses, the practice manager and administration staff and spoke with patients who used the service.

Detailed findings

- Observed how patients were being cared for and talked with carers and/or family members
- Reviewed an anonymised sample of the personal care or treatment records of patients.
- Reviewed comment cards where patients and members of the public shared their views and experiences of the service.'

To get to the heart of patients' experiences of care and treatment, we always ask the following five questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well-led?

We also looked at how well services were provided for specific groups of people and what good care looked like for them. The population groups are:

- Older people
- People with long-term conditions
- Families, children and young people
- Working age people (including those recently retired and students)
- People whose circumstances may make them vulnerable
- People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia).

Please note that when referring to information throughout this report, for example any reference to the Quality and Outcomes Framework data, this relates to the most recent information available to the CQC at that time.

Are services safe?

Our findings

Safe track record and learning

There was system in place for reporting and recording significant events.

- Staff told us they would inform the practice manager of any incidents and there was a recording form available on the practice's computer system. The incident recording form supported the recording of notifiable incidents under the duty of candour. (The duty of candour is a set of specific legal requirements that providers of services must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment).
- We saw evidence that when things went wrong with care and treatment, patients were informed of the incident, received reasonable support, truthful information, a written apology and were told about any actions to improve processes to prevent the same thing happening again.
- The practice carried out an analysis of significant events. However the recent records we saw did not demonstrate that the process of investigating and learning from incidents was fully documented. For example we were told that incidents had been discussed at GP partners meetings however the minutes did not contain information on the discussion or any outcome. The significant event form only contained a chronology of the event.

Overview of safety systems and processes

The practice had defined and embedded systems, processes and practices in place to keep patients safe and safeguarded from abuse, which included:

- Arrangements were in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse. These arrangements reflected relevant legislation and local requirements. Policies were accessible to all staff. The policies clearly outlined who to contact for further guidance if staff had concerns about a patient's welfare. There was a lead member of staff for safeguarding. The GPs attended safeguarding meetings when possible and always provided reports where necessary for other agencies. Staff demonstrated they understood their

responsibilities and all had received training on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults relevant to their role. GPs and nurses were trained to child safeguarding level three.

- A notice in consultation rooms advised patients that chaperones were available if required. We found that staff who acted as chaperones were trained for the role and they had received a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. (DBS checks identify whether a person has a criminal record or is on an official list of people barred from working in roles where they may have contact with children or adults who may be vulnerable).
- The practice maintained appropriate standards of cleanliness and hygiene. We observed the premises to be clean and tidy. A nurse was the infection control clinical lead who liaised with the local infection prevention teams to keep up to date with best practice. There was an infection control protocol in place and staff had received up to date training. Annual infection control audits were undertaken. The latest infection control audit took place in October 2015.
- The arrangements for managing medicines, including emergency medicines and vaccines, in the practice, in most situations kept patients safe (including obtaining, prescribing, recording, handling, storing, security and disposal). Processes were in place for handling repeat prescriptions which included the review of high risk medicines. The practice carried out regular medicines audits, with the support of the local CCG pharmacy teams, to ensure prescribing was in line with best practice guidelines for safe prescribing. Whilst blank prescription forms and pads were securely stored the practice did not have systems in place to monitor their stock and use. We also observed that the vaccine fridge was in an unlocked room and the key was stored in the room in an unlocked drawer accessible to patients. Patient Group Directions had been adopted by the practice to allow nurses to administer medicines in line with legislation. Health Care Assistants were trained to administer vaccines and medicines against a patient specific prescription or direction from a prescriber.
- The practice did not hold stocks of controlled drugs (medicines that require extra checks and special storage because of their potential misuse).
- We reviewed five personnel files and found that not all records demonstrated that appropriate recruitment checks had been undertaken prior to employment

Are services safe?

including satisfactory evidence of conduct in previous employment. These checks include proof of identification, qualifications, registration with the appropriate professional body and the appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service were in place. We found two records had no evidence of references being taken up, one record did not contain proof of identity and another for a non-clinical member of staff did not contain a risk assessment in relation to unsupervised access to patients.

Monitoring risks to patients

Risks to patients were assessed and well managed.

- There were procedures in place for monitoring and managing risks to patient and staff safety. However not all risks had been considered. For example there was a health and safety policy available with a poster which identified local health and safety representatives but the practice did not have a health and safety risk assessment. The practice had up to date fire risk assessments. All electrical equipment was checked to ensure the equipment was safe to use and clinical equipment was checked to ensure it was working properly. The practice had not undertaken a legionella risk assessment. (Legionella is a term for a particular bacterium which can contaminate water systems in buildings). Following our inspection the practice provided information from their air conditioning service contractor to demonstrate that the type of air conditioning system used was low risk.

- Arrangements were in place for planning and monitoring the number of staff and mix of staff needed to meet patients' needs. There was a rota system in place for all the different staffing groups to ensure enough staff were on duty.

Arrangements to deal with emergencies and major incidents

The practice had adequate arrangements in place to respond to emergencies and major incidents.

- There was an instant messaging system on the computers in all the consultation and treatment rooms which alerted staff to any emergency.
- All staff received annual basic life support training and there were emergency medicines available in the treatment room.
- The practice had a defibrillator available on the premises and oxygen with adult and children's masks. A first aid kit and accident book were available.
- Emergency medicines were easily accessible to staff in a secure area of the practice and all staff knew of their location. All the medicines we checked were in date and stored securely.
- The practice did not have a business continuity plan in place for major incidents such as power failure or building damage.

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

Our findings

Effective needs assessment

The practice assessed needs and delivered care in line with relevant and current evidence based guidance and standards, including National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) best practice guidelines.

- The practice had systems in place to keep all clinical staff up to date. Staff had access to guidelines from NICE and used this information to deliver care and treatment that met patients' needs. Information was shared at the practice during regular clinical meetings.
- The practice monitored that these guidelines were followed through risk assessments, audits and random sample checks of patient records.

Management, monitoring and improving outcomes for people

The practice used the information collected for the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) and performance against national screening programmes to monitor outcomes for patients. (QOF is a system intended to improve the quality of general practice and reward good practice). The most recent published results were 94.9% of the total number of points available.

This practice was not an outlier for one QOF clinical target. Data from 2014/2015 showed:

Performance for diabetes related indicators was comparable to or higher than the CCG and national averages. For example, the percentage of patients with diabetes, on the register, in whom the last blood pressure reading (measured in the preceding 12 months) is 140/80 mmHg or less was 71% compared to the CCG average of 74% and national average of 78%. The percentage of patients on the diabetes register, with a record of a foot examination and risk classification within the preceding 12 months was 94 % compared to the CCG average of 81% and the national average of 88%.

Performance for mental health related indicators were better than the CCG and national average. For example, the percentage of patients with schizophrenia, bipolar affective

disorder and other psychoses who have a comprehensive, agreed care plan documented in the record, in the preceding 12 months was 98% compared to the CCG average of 89% and national average of 88%.

There was evidence of quality improvement including clinical audit.

- There had been eight clinical audits completed in the last two years, improvements made were implemented and monitored. .
- Findings were used by the practice to improve services. For example, as a result of an audit of patients prescribed an anti-depressant the practice, in consultation with individual patients reduced the dose of this medicine in line with MHRA guidelines.
- The practice participated in local audits, national benchmarking, accreditation, peer review and research

Effective staffing

Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment.

- The practice had an induction programme for all newly appointed staff. This covered such topics as safeguarding, infection prevention and control, fire safety, health and safety and confidentiality.
- The practice could demonstrate how they ensured role-specific training and updating for relevant staff.
- Staff administering vaccines and taking samples for the cervical screening programme had received specific training which had included an assessment of competence. Staff who administered vaccines could demonstrate how they stayed up to date with changes to the immunisation programmes, for example by access to on line resources and discussion at practice meetings.
- The learning needs of staff were identified through a system of appraisals, meetings and reviews of practice development needs. Staff had access to appropriate training to meet their learning needs and to cover the scope of their work. This included ongoing support, one-to-one meetings, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision and facilitation and support for revalidating GPs. The practice manager had established an appraisal system and had a plan to complete appraisals of all staff. The staff we spoke with confirmed this approach.
- Staff received training that included: safeguarding, fire safety awareness, basic life support infection control,

Are services effective?

(for example, treatment is effective)

information governance and information governance. Staff had access to and made use of e-learning training modules and in-house training. We found training records were not always up to date and did not keep track of staff training updates. The current approach to keeping these records meant it was difficult to audit.

Coordinating patient care and information sharing

The information needed to plan and deliver care and treatment was available to relevant staff in a timely and accessible way through the practice's patient record system and their intranet system.

- This included care and risk assessments, care plans, medical records and investigation and test results.
- The practice shared relevant information with other services in a timely way, for example when referring patients to other services.

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to understand and meet the range and complexity of patients' needs and to assess and plan ongoing care and treatment. This included when patients moved between services, including when they were referred, or after they were discharged from hospital. Meetings took place with other health care professionals on a fortnightly basis when care plans were routinely reviewed and updated for patients with complex needs.

Consent to care and treatment

Staff sought patients' consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

- We saw that patients' verbal consent was recorded in their care records.
- Staff understood the relevant consent and decision-making requirements of legislation and guidance, including the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- When providing care and treatment for children and young people, staff carried out assessments of capacity to consent in line with relevant guidance.
- Where a patient's mental capacity to consent to care or treatment was unclear the GP or practice nurse assessed the patient's capacity and, recorded the outcome of the assessment.
- The process for seeking consent was monitored through patient records audits.

Supporting patients to live healthier lives

The practice identified patients who may be in need of extra support. For example:

- Patients receiving end of life care, carers, those at risk of developing a long-term condition and those requiring advice on their diet, smoking and alcohol cessation. Patients were signposted to the relevant service.
- Advice on diet and exercise and smoking cessation advice was available from a local support group.

The practice's uptake for the cervical screening programme was 86%, which was comparable to the CCG average of 81%, and the national average was 82%. There was a policy to offer telephone reminders for patients who did not attend for their cervical screening test. The practice demonstrated how they encouraged uptake of the screening programme by using information in different languages and for those with a learning disability and they ensured a female sample taker was available. The practice also encouraged its patients to attend national screening programmes for bowel and breast cancer screening. There were systems in place to ensure results were received for all samples sent for the cervical screening programme and the practice followed up women who were referred as a result of abnormal results.

For example the number of patients aged between 60 and 69 screened for bowel cancer in the last 30 months was 65% compared to a CCG average of 60% and a national average of 58%. The number of female patients, 50-70, screened for breast cancer in last 36 months was 73% compared to the CCG and national average of 72%.

Childhood immunisation rates for the vaccines given were comparable to CCG/national averages. For example, childhood immunisation rates for the vaccines given to under two year olds ranged from 80% to 97% compared to CCG averages of 75% to 87% and five year olds from 76% to 87% compared to the CCG average of 71% to 84%.

Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks. These included health checks for new patients and NHS health checks for patients aged 40-74. Appropriate follow-ups for the outcomes of health assessments and checks were made, where abnormalities or risk factors were identified.

Are services caring?

Our findings

Kindness, dignity, respect and compassion

We observed members of staff were courteous and very helpful to patients and treated them with dignity and respect.

- Curtains were provided in consulting rooms to maintain patients' privacy and dignity during examinations, investigations and treatments.
- We noted that consultation and treatment room doors were closed during consultations; conversations taking place in these rooms could not be overheard.
- Reception staff knew when patients wanted to discuss sensitive issues or appeared distressed they could offer them a private room to discuss their needs.

All of the 20 patient Care Quality Commission comment cards we received contained positive comments about the service experienced. Patients said they felt the practice offered an excellent service and staff were helpful, caring and treated them with dignity and respect.

Comment cards highlighted that staff responded compassionately when they needed help and provided support when required.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed patients felt they were treated with compassion, dignity and respect. The practice had above average results for its satisfaction scores on consultations with GPs and nurses. For example:

- 97% of patients said the GP was good at listening to them compared to the clinical commissioning group (CCG) average of 90% and the national average of 87%.
- 96% of patients said the GP gave them enough time compared to the CCG average of 88% and the national average of 87%.
- 99% of patients said they had confidence and trust in the last GP they saw compared to the CCG average of 96% and the national average of 95%.
- 95% of patients said the last GP they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern compared to the national average of 85%.
- 96% of patients said the last nurse they spoke to was good at treating them with care and concern compared to the national average of 91%.

- 96% of patients said they found the receptionists at the practice helpful compared to the CCG average of 90% and the national average of 87%.

Care planning and involvement in decisions about care and treatment

We spoke with three patients during our inspection. Patients told us they felt involved in decision making about the care and treatment they received. They also told us they felt listened to and supported by staff and had sufficient time during consultations to make an informed decision about the choice of treatment available to them. Patient feedback from the comment cards we received was also positive and aligned with these views. We also saw that care plans were detailed and personalised.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed patients rated the practice higher for responses to questions about their involvement in planning and making decisions about their care and treatment. Results were higher than local and national averages in some areas. For example:

- 92% of patients said the last GP they saw was good at explaining tests and treatments compared to the CCG average of 87% and the national average of 86%.
- 97% of patients said the last GP they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care compared to the national average of 82%.
- 94% of patients said the last nurse they saw was good at involving them in decisions about their care compared to the national average of 85%.

The practice provided facilities to help patients be involved in decisions about their care:

- Staff told us that translation services were available for patients who did not have English as a first language. We saw notices in the reception areas informing patients this service was available.
- Information leaflets were available in easy read format.

Patient and carer support to cope emotionally with care and treatment

Patient information leaflets and notices were available in the patient waiting area which told patients how to access a number of support groups and organisations. Information about support groups was also available on the practice website.

Are services caring?

The practice's computer system alerted GPs if a patient was also a carer. The practice had identified 76 patients as carers (1.3% of the practice list). Written information was available to direct carers to the various avenues of support available to them. The practice has an agreed protocol and guidelines on identifying carers at every opportunity when contact is made with the practice.

Staff told us that if families had suffered bereavement, their usual GP contacted them. This call was either followed by a patient consultation at a flexible time and location to meet the family's needs and/or by giving them advice on how to find a support service.

Are services responsive to people's needs?

(for example, to feedback?)

Our findings

Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice reviewed the needs of its local population and engaged with the NHS England Area Team and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to secure improvements to services where these were identified.

- The practice offered a 'Commuter's Clinic' on a Tuesday and Friday morning from 7.40am and Wednesday evening until 7pm for working patients who could not attend during normal opening hours.
- There were longer appointments available for patients with a learning disability.
- Home visits were available for older patients and patients who had clinical needs which resulted in difficulty attending the practice.
- Same day appointments were available for children and those patients with medical problems that require same day consultation.
- Patients were able to receive travel vaccinations available on the NHS as well as those only available privately.
- There were disabled facilities, a hearing loop and translation services available.

Access to the service

The practice was open between 8am to 6.30pm each day. Extended hours appointments were offered between 7.40am and 8am on Tuesday and Friday mornings and 6pm and 7pm on Wednesdays. The practice also had a Saturday morning surgery once a month between 9am and 12noon. In addition to pre-bookable appointments that could be booked up to six weeks in advance, urgent appointments were also available for people that needed them.

Results from the national GP patient survey showed that patient's satisfaction with how they could access care and treatment was higher than the local and national averages.

- 91% of patients were satisfied with the practice's opening hours compared to the CCG average of 73% and the national average of 78%.

- 95% of patients said they could get through easily to the practice by phone compared to the CCG average of 67% national average of 73%).

People told us on the day of the inspection that they were able to get appointments when they needed them. The comment cards we received were in line with what we had observed and been told on the day of the inspection.

The practice had a system in place to assess:

- whether a home visit was clinically necessary; and
- the urgency of the need for medical attention.

For example, the practice phoned the patient or carer in advance to gather information to allow for an informed decision to be made on prioritisation according to clinical need. In cases where the urgency of need was so great that it would be inappropriate for the patient to wait for a GP home visit, alternative emergency care arrangements were made. Clinical and non-clinical staff were aware of their responsibilities when managing requests for home visits.

Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

The practice had an effective system in place for handling complaints and concerns.

- Its complaints policy and procedures were in line with recognised guidance and contractual obligations for GPs in England.
- There was a designated responsible person who handled all complaints in the practice.
- We saw that information was available to help patients understand the complaints system for example a complaints leaflet was available in reception.

We looked at complaints received in the last 12 months and found these were satisfactorily handled, dealt with in a timely way, openness and transparency with dealing with the complaint. We noted that actions were taken by the practice following the outcome of complaints investigations. For example when a patient complained that their appointment had not been a good experience the practice investigated the concern and contacted the patient. The patient received a full explanation and an apology.

Are services well-led?

Good 

(for example, are they well-managed and do senior leaders listen, learn and take appropriate action)

Our findings

Vision and strategy

The practice had a clear vision to deliver high quality care and promote good outcomes for patients.

- The practice had a mission statement and staff knew and understood the values.
- The practice had a robust strategy and supporting business plans which reflected the vision and values and were regularly monitored.

Governance arrangements

The practice had an overarching governance framework which supported the delivery of the strategy and good quality care. This outlined the structures and procedures in place and ensured that:

- There was a clear staffing structure and that staff were aware of their own roles and responsibilities.
- Practice specific policies were implemented and were available to all staff.
- A comprehensive understanding of the performance of the practice was maintained
- A programme of continuous clinical and internal audit was used to monitor quality and to make improvements.
- There were arrangements for identifying, recording and managing risks, issues and implementing mitigating actions. However not all risks were well managed. For example the recruitment records of staff and the security of medicines.

Leadership and culture

On the day of inspection the partners in the practice demonstrated they had the experience, capacity and capability to run the practice and ensure high quality care. They told us they prioritised safe, high quality and compassionate care. Staff told us the partners were approachable and always took the time to listen to all members of staff.

The provider was aware of and had systems in place to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour. (The duty of candour is a set of specific legal requirements that providers of services must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment). This included support training for all staff on communicating with

patients about notifiable safety incidents. The partners encouraged a culture of openness and honesty. The practice had systems in place to ensure that when things went wrong with care and treatment::

- The practice gave affected people reasonable support, truthful information and a verbal and written apology
- The practice kept written records of verbal interactions as well as written correspondence.

There was a clear leadership structure in place and staff felt supported by management.

- Staff told us there was an open culture within the practice and they had the opportunity to raise any issues at team meetings and felt confident and supported in doing so.
- Staff said they felt respected, valued and supported, particularly by the partners in the practice. All staff were involved in discussions about how to run and develop the practice, and the partners encouraged all members of staff to identify opportunities to improve the service delivered by the practice.

Seeking and acting on feedback from patients, the public and staff

The practice encouraged and valued feedback from patients, the public and staff. It proactively sought patients' feedback and engaged patients in the delivery of the service.

- The practice had gathered feedback from patients through the patient participation group (PPG) and through surveys and complaints received. The PPG were involved in sharing information with the patient group, had organised events and submitted proposals for improvements to the practice management team. Recent actions included the organisation and support for fund-raising to replace examination couches in the practice. The PPG had also been involved in establishing good community networks, setting up an information stall at the local village day and developing a newsletter for the practice. We met with members of the PPG who told us that the group met regularly. They found the practice staff to be positive, engaged and listened to their views. Feedback from patients had increased the literature available in the waiting area on subjects such as bereavement.
- The practice had gathered feedback from staff through staff feedback, appraisals and discussions at staff

Are services well-led?

Good 

(for example, are they well-managed and do senior leaders listen, learn and take appropriate action)

meetings. Staff told us they would not hesitate to give feedback and discuss any concerns or issues with colleagues and management. Staff told us they felt involved and engaged to improve how the practice was run.

Continuous improvement

There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels within the practice. The practice team was forward thinking and part of local pilot schemes to improve outcomes for patients in the area.

Requirement notices

Action we have told the provider to take

The table below shows the legal requirements that were not being met. The provider must send CQC a report that says what action they are going to take to meet these requirements.

Regulated activity	Regulation
Diagnostic and screening procedures Family planning services Maternity and midwifery services Surgical procedures Treatment of disease, disorder or injury	<p>Regulation 12 HSCA (RA) Regulations 2014 Safe care and treatment</p> <p>The provider had not ensured the safety and security of medicines.</p> <p>The provider had not ensured that prescription pads, both hand written and computer generated were monitored through an effective tracking system.</p> <p>The provider had not ensured that significant events were fully documented.</p> <p>The provider had not ensured staff who had unsupervised access to patients had been risk assessed.</p> <p>The provider had not ensured all health and safety risks were assessed and mitigated. This included the risk of legionella infection and general health and safety arrangements.</p> <p>This was in breach of regulation 12 (1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014</p>

Regulated activity	Regulation
Diagnostic and screening procedures Family planning services Maternity and midwifery services Surgical procedures Treatment of disease, disorder or injury	<p>Regulation 19 HSCA (RA) Regulations 2014 Fit and proper persons employed</p> <p>The provider had not ensured that records required by regulation, including proof of identity and satisfactory information regarding conduct in previous employment were in place for staff.</p> <p>This was in breach of regulation 19 (1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014</p>