

# Dr CP Fairlamb and Partners (Carodoc Surgery)

### **Inspection report**

The Carodoc Surgery
Front Street West
Wingate
County Durham
TS28 5PZ
Tel: 01429838217
www.thecarodocpractice.nhs.uk

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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 location	Good	
Are services safe?	Good	
Are services effective?	Good	
Are services caring?	Good	
Are services responsive?	Good	
Are services well-led?	Good	

# Overall summary

This practice is rated as Good overall. (Previous

inspection July 2015 - Good)

The key questions are rated as:

Are services safe? - Good

Are services effective? - Good

Are services caring? - Good

Are services responsive? - Good

Are services well-led? - Good

We carried out an announced comprehensive inspection at Dr CP Fairlamb and Partners on 17 May 2018 as part of our inspection programme.

At this inspection we found:

- The practice had systems to keep patients safe and safeguarded from abuse.
- The practice had clear systems to manage risk so that safety incidents were less likely to happen. When incidents did happen, the practice learned from them and improved their processes.
- The practice routinely reviewed the effectiveness and appropriateness of the care they provided. They ensured that care and treatment was delivered according to evidence- based guidelines.
- Staff involved and treated patients with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect.
- Results from the National GP Survey were mostly local and national scores.
- The practice organised and delivered services to meet patients' needs. They took account of patient needs and preferences.

- Access to appointments was good. Patients were able to access care and treatment from the practice within an acceptable timescale for their needs.
- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels of the organisation. The practice proactively used performance information to drive improvement.

We saw two areas of outstanding practice:

- Staff were actively engaged to monitor and improve quality and outcomes. The practice had carried out a high level of clinical audit for its size. The audits were well written and clinically relevant showing a determination to improve the service to patients and make prescribing safer. There were several two-cycle clinical audits. These included audits regarding: urinary tract infections (UTI); chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); treatment of vitamin B12 deficiency; and the use of ACE inhibitors (medications used to treat high blood pressure). As a result of these audits templates were designed for clinical staff to improve prescribing and reduce the risk of errors. There were rescue packs compiled with information for patients with chronic conditions such as COPD and management plans for diabetics. The aim of these were to improve their self-care to manage their condition. Protocols were developed and displayed on the walls of every clinical room, such as safeguarding information.
- The practice had a rate of 39% for patients accessing services on-line. The original target was 10%. They had received a letter of congratulations from NHS England who used the practice as a good example for high levels of patients using this facility.

**Professor Steve Field** CBE FRCP FFPH FRCGP Chief Inspector of General Practice

### Population group ratings

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

### Our inspection team

Our inspection team was led by a CQC lead inspector. The team included a GP specialist adviser.

### Background to Dr CP Fairlamb and Partners

Dr CP Fairlamb and Partners (known as Carodoc Surgery) is registered with the Care Quality Commission to provide primary care services. The practice provides services to around 4,500 patients from two locations:

- The Carodoc Surgery, Front Street West, Wingate, County Durham, TS28 5PZ
- Peterlee Health Centre, Bede Way, Peterlee, Co Durham, SR8 1AD

We visited both of these sites during the inspection.

The Carodoc Surgery is in purpose built premises; all patient services are on the ground floor. There is a car park beside the practice, dedicated disabled parking bays and step free access.

Peterlee Health Centre is a purpose-built premises, the health centre is shared with other primary medical services. The practice have their own dedicated consulting rooms. There are disabled parking spaces in the patient car park, with wheelchair and step free access.

The practice has a female GP partner whole time equivalent (WTE) 0.5. There is a full time female salaried GP. There are long term locum GPs working at the practice WTE 1.5. There is an advanced nurse practitioner

(WTE 0.53), two practice nurses (WTE 1.64), and two healthcare assistants (WTE 1.07). There is a practice manager and assistant practice manager. There are nine (WTE 6.48) staff who undertake administration duties.

The practice teaches medical students (third and fifth year) and offers student nurse placements.

The practice trains foundation level two doctors (F2) who are qualified doctors spending 4 months in a GP practice (a medical practitioner in the undertaking a medical training programme which forms the bridge between medical school and specialist/general practice training).

The opening times at both surgeries are 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Consulting times are 9:30am to 11:50am, 3pm until 6pm.

The practice provides late evening, weekend and bank holiday appointments;

they are part of the local GP federation of GP practices who work together to provide appointments with GPs, nurses or health care assistants outside of their normal working hours. Patients can contact the practice reception team to arrange appointments. When this service is not provided patients requiring urgent medical care can contact the out of hours provided by the NHS 111 service.

The practice is part of NHS Durham Dales and Sedgefield clinical commission group (CCG). The practice provides services based on a General Medical Services (GMS) contract agreement for general practice.

Information from Public Health England places the area in which the practice is located in the third most deprived

decile. In general, people living in more deprived areas tend to have greater need for health services. Average male life expectancy at the practice is 77 years, which is lower than the national average of 79. Average female life expectancy at the practice is 81 years, which is lower than the national average of 83 years.



### Are services safe?

# We rated the practice as good for providing safe services.

### Safety systems and processes

The practice had clear systems to keep people safe and safeguarded from abuse.

- The practice had appropriate systems to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from abuse. All staff received up-to-date safeguarding and safety training appropriate to their role. They knew how to identify and report concerns. Reports and learning from safeguarding incidents were available to staff. Staff who acted as chaperones were trained for their role and had received a 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.)
- Staff took steps, including working with other agencies, to protect patients from abuse, neglect, harassment, discrimination and breaches of their dignity and respect.
- The practice carried out appropriate staff checks at the time of recruitment and on an ongoing basis.
- There was an effective system to manage infection prevention and control.
- The practice had arrangements to ensure that facilities and equipment were safe and in good working order.
- Arrangements for managing waste and clinical specimens kept people safe.

### **Risks to patients**

There were adequate systems to assess, monitor and manage risks to patient safety.

- Arrangements were in place for planning and monitoring the number and mix of staff needed to meet patients' needs, including planning for holidays, sickness, busy periods and epidemics.
- There was an effective induction system for temporary staff tailored to their role.
- The practice was equipped to deal with medical emergencies and staff were suitably trained in emergency procedures.

- Staff understood their responsibilities to manage emergencies on the premises and to recognise those in need of urgent medical attention. Clinicians knew how to identify and manage patients with severe infections including sepsis.
- When there were changes to services or staff the practice assessed and monitored the impact on safety.

#### Information to deliver safe care and treatment

Staff had the information they needed to deliver safe care and treatment to patients.

- The care records we saw showed that information needed to deliver safe care and treatment was available to staff. There was a documented approach to managing test results.
- The practice had systems for sharing information with staff and other agencies to enable them to deliver safe care and treatment.
- Clinicians made timely referrals in line with protocols.

#### Appropriate and safe use of medicines

The practice had reliable systems for appropriate and safe handling of medicines.

- The systems for managing and storing medicines, including vaccines, medical gases, emergency medicines and equipment, minimised risks.
- Staff prescribed, administered or supplied medicines to patients and gave advice on medicines in line with current national guidance. The practice had reviewed its antibiotic prescribing and taken action to support good antimicrobial stewardship in line with local and national guidance.
- Patients' health was monitored in relation to the use of medicines and followed up on appropriately. Patients were involved in regular reviews of their medicines.

#### Track record on safety

The practice had a good track record on safety.

- There were comprehensive risk assessments in relation to safety issues.
- The practice monitored and reviewed activity. This
  helped it to understand risks and gave a clear, accurate
  and current picture of safety that led to safety
  improvements.

#### Lessons learned and improvements made



## Are services safe?

The practice learned and made improvements when things went wrong.

- Staff understood their duty to raise concerns and report incidents and near misses. Leaders and managers supported them when they did so.
- There were adequate systems for reviewing and investigating when things went wrong. The practice learned and shared lessons, identified themes and took action to improve safety in the practice.
- The practice acted on and learned from external safety events as well as patient and medicine safety alerts.

Please refer to the Evidence Tables for further information.



### Are services effective?

# We rated the practice and all of the population groups as good for providing effective services overall.

(Please note: Any Quality Outcomes (QOF) data relates to 2016/17. QOF is a system intended to improve the quality of general practice and reward good practice.)

### Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

The practice had systems to keep clinicians up to date with current evidence-based practice. We saw that clinicians assessed needs and delivered care and treatment in line with current legislation, standards and guidance supported by clear clinical pathways and protocols.

- Patients' immediate and ongoing needs were fully assessed. This included their clinical needs and their mental and physical wellbeing.
- We saw no evidence of discrimination when making care and treatment decisions.
- Staff used appropriate tools to assess the level of pain in patients.
- Staff advised patients what to do if their condition got worse and where to seek further help and support.

### Older people:

- Older patients who are frail or may be vulnerable received a full assessment of their physical, mental and social needs. The practice used an appropriate tool to identify patients aged 65 and over who were living with moderate or severe frailty. Those identified as being frail had a clinical review including a review of medication. They had same day access to a GP.
- There was a vulnerable adult's wrap around service (VAWAS) provided by the CCG. This was provided by a nurse practitioner who visited the practice daily and would visit patients, mostly frail and elderly and those in care homes who the practice felt required extra support.
- Staff had appropriate knowledge of treating older people including their psychological, mental and communication needs.

### People with long-term conditions:

 Patients with long-term conditions had a structured annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being met with the senior nurse. For patients with the most complex needs, the GP worked with other health and care professionals to deliver a coordinated package of care.

- Staff who were responsible for reviews of patients with long term conditions had received specific training.
- The practice had recently introduced new management plans for diabetes care. Additional reviews were in place for patients with asthma.
- The practice were able to demonstrate how they identified patients with commonly undiagnosed conditions, for example diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), atrial fibrillation and hypertension)

Families, children and young people:

- Childhood immunisations were carried out in line with the national childhood vaccination programme. Uptake rates for the vaccines given were 100% which were above the target percentage of 90%.
- The practice had arrangements to identify and review the treatment of newly pregnant women on long-term medicines. These patients were provided with advice and post-natal support in accordance with best practice guidance.
- The practice had arrangements for following up failed attendance of children's appointments following an appointment in secondary care or for immunisation.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students):

- The practice's uptake for cervical screening was 77%, based on information available. However, at inspection the practice were able to provide us with more up to date figures which was 83%, which was above the CCG and National coverage targets.
- The practices' uptake for breast and bowel cancer screening was in line the national average.
- The practice had systems to inform eligible patients to have the meningitis vaccine, for example before attending university for the first time.
- Patients had access to appropriate health assessments and checks including NHS checks for patients aged 40-74. There was appropriate follow-up on the outcome of health assessments and checks where abnormalities or risk factors were identified.

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable:

• End of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of those whose circumstances may make them vulnerable.



### Are services effective?

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including those with a learning disability.
- Patients with a learning disability received annual reviews and where appropriate were held in conjunction with the community learning disability nurse.
- The practice had a system for vaccinating patients with an underlying medical condition according to the recommended schedule.

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia):

- The practice assessed and monitored the physical health of people with mental illness, severe mental illness, and personality disorder by providing access to health checks, interventions for physical activity, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer and access to 'stop smoking' services. There was a system for following up patients who failed to attend for administration of long term medication.
- When patients were assessed to be at risk of suicide or self-harm the practice had arrangements in place to help them to remain safe.
- 84% of patients diagnosed with dementia had their care reviewed in a face to face meeting in the previous 12 months. This was the same as the national average.
- 95% of patients diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses had a comprehensive, agreed care plan documented in the previous 12 months. This is above the national average of 90%.
- The practice specifically considered the physical health needs of patients with poor mental health and those living with dementia. For example, 96% of patients experiencing poor mental health had received discussion and advice about alcohol consumption. This was above the national average of 91%.
- Patients at risk of dementia were identified and offered an assessment to detect possible signs of dementia.
   When dementia was suspected there was an appropriate referral for diagnosis.
- The practice offered annual health checks to patients with a learning disability.

### **Monitoring care and treatment**

The practice had a good programme of quality improvement activity.

- The most recent published QOF results showed the practice's overall achievement was 100% which was above the local and national average. The clinical exception reporting rate was 11.1% compared with a national average of 5.7%.
- The practice had a QOF plan. This was to ensure they
  met their targets in relation to the indicators in the QOF
  targets.
- The practice had carried out a high level of clinical audit for its size. The audits were well written and clinically relevant showing a determination to improve the service to patients and make prescribing safer. There were several two-cycle clinical audits. These included audits regarding: urinary tract infections (UTI); chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); treatment of vitamin B12 deficiency; and the use of ACE inhibitors (medications used to treat high blood pressure). As a result of these audits templates were designed for clinical staff to improve prescribing and reduce the risk of errors. There were rescue packs compiled with information for patients with chronic conditions such as COPD and management plans for diabetics. The aim of these were to improve their self-care to manage their condition. Protocols were developed and displayed on the walls of every clinical room, such as safeguarding information.

#### **Effective staffing**

Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out their roles.

- Staff had appropriate knowledge for their role, for example, to carry out reviews for people with long term conditions, older people and people requiring contraceptive reviews.
- Staff whose role included immunisation and taking samples for the cervical screening programme had received specific training and could demonstrate how they stayed up to date.
- The practice understood the learning needs of staff and provided protected time and training to meet them. Up to date records of skills, qualifications and training were maintained. Staff were encouraged and given opportunities to develop.



### Are services effective?

- The practice had provided additional training to staff for example, prevent, female genital mutilation, appraiser, training for teachers, management training. Some receptionists had received catheter and stoma care training.
- The practice provided staff with ongoing support. This
  included an induction process, one-to-one meetings,
  appraisals, coaching and mentoring, clinical supervision
  and support for revalidation. The induction process for
  healthcare assistants included the requirements of the
  Care Certificate. The practice ensured the competence
  of staff employed in advanced roles by audit of their
  clinical decision making, including non-medical
  prescribing.
- There was a clear approach for supporting and managing staff when their performance was poor or variable.

### **Coordinating care and treatment**

Staff worked together and with other health and social care professionals to deliver effective care and treatment.

- We saw records that showed that all appropriate staff, including those in different teams and organisations, were involved in assessing, planning and delivering care and treatment.
- The practice shared clear and accurate information with relevant professionals when deciding care delivery for people with long term conditions and when coordinating healthcare for care home residents. The shared information with, and liaised, with community services, social services and carers for housebound patients and with health visitors and community services for children who have relocated into the local area.
- Patients received coordinated and person-centred care. This included when they moved between services, when

- they were referred, or after they were discharged from hospital. The practice worked with patients to develop personal care plans that were shared with relevant agencies.
- The practice ensured that end of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of different patients, including those who may be vulnerable because of their circumstances.

### Helping patients to live healthier lives

Staff were consistent and proactive in helping patients to live healthier lives.

- The practice identified patients who may be in need of extra support and directed them to relevant services.
   This included patients in the last 12 months of their lives, patients at risk of developing a long-term condition and carers.
- Staff encouraged and supported patients to be involved in monitoring and managing their own health, for example through social prescribing schemes.
- Staff discussed changes to care or treatment with patients and their carers as necessary.
- The practice supported national priorities and initiatives to improve the population's health, for example, stop smoking campaigns, tackling obesity.

#### **Consent to care and treatment**

The practice obtained consent to care and treatment in line with legislation and guidance.

- Clinicians understood the requirements of legislation and guidance when considering consent and decision making.
- Clinicians supported patients to make decisions. Where appropriate, they assessed and recorded a patient's mental capacity to make a decision.

Please refer to the Evidence Tables for further information.



# Are services caring?

#### We rated the practice as good for caring.

### Kindness, respect and compassion

Staff treated patients with kindness, respect and compassion.

- Feedback from patients was positive about the way staff treat people.
- Staff understood patients' personal, cultural, social and religious needs.
- The practice gave patients timely support and information.
- We asked the management of the practice about the lower scores for GPs in the National GP survey results. They explained that two partners who had worked at the practice for over twenty years had retired in the last two years which the patients were disappointed about and they believed this had a negative impact on the GP scores in the survey.

#### Involvement in decisions about care and treatment

Staff helped patients to be involved in decisions about care and treatment. They were aware of the Accessible Information Standard (a requirement to make sure that patients and their carers can access and understand the information that they are given.)

- Staff communicated with people in a way that they could understand, for example, communication aids and easy read materials were available.
- Staff helped patients and their carers find further information and access community and advocacy services. They helped them ask questions about their care and treatment.
- The practice proactively identified carers and supported

### **Privacy and dignity**

The practice respected patients' privacy and dignity.

- Reception staff knew that if patients wanted to discuss sensitive issues or appeared distressed they could offer them a private room to discuss their needs.
- Staff recognised the importance of people's dignity and respect. They challenged behaviour that fell short of this.

Please refer to the Evidence Tables for further information.



# Are services responsive to people's needs?

# We rated the practice, and all of the population groups, as good for providing responsive services.

### Responding to and meeting people's needs

The practice organised and delivered services to meet patients' needs. They took account of patient needs and preferences.

- The practice understood the needs of its population and tailored services in response to those needs.
- Telephone GP consultations were available which supported patients who were unable to attend the practice during normal working hours.
- The facilities and premises were appropriate for the services delivered.
- The practice made reasonable adjustments when patients found it hard to access services.
- The practice provided effective care coordination for patients who are more vulnerable or who have complex needs. They supported them to access services both within and outside the practice.
- Care and treatment for patients with multiple long-term conditions and patients approaching the end of life was coordinated with other services.

### Older people:

- All patients had a named GP who supported them in whatever setting they lived, whether it was at home or in a care home or supported living scheme.
- The practice was responsive to the needs of older patients, and offered home visits and same day appointments for those with enhanced needs. There were home visits for those who had difficulties getting to the practice due to limited local public transport availability. There were regular 'ward rounds' in the local care homes by the GPs and nurses.

### People with long-term conditions:

- Patients with a long-term condition received an annual review to check their health and medicines needs were being appropriately met. Multiple conditions were reviewed at one appointment, and consultation times were flexible to meet each patient's specific needs.
- The practice held regular meetings with the local district nursing team to discuss and manage the needs of patients with complex medical issues.

Families, children and young people:

- We found there were systems 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 accident and emergency (A&E) attendances. Records we looked at confirmed this.
- All parents or guardians calling with concerns about a child under the age of 18 were offered a same day appointment when necessary.

Working age people (including those recently retired and students):

 The needs of this population group had been identified and the practice had adjusted the services it offered to ensure these were accessible, flexible and offered continuity of care. For example, the practice offered appointments after 5pm for working patients if they were needed.

People whose circumstances make them vulnerable:

- The practice held a register of patients living in vulnerable circumstances including homeless people, travellers and those with a learning disability.
- People in vulnerable circumstances were easily able to register with the practice, including those with no fixed abode.

People experiencing poor mental health (including people with dementia):

- Staff interviewed had a good understanding of how to support patients with mental health needs and those patients living with dementia.
- The practice had an in-house metal health nurse. There
  was access for patients to mental health and dementia
  clinics. The practice had a referral system to a mental
  health pathway, mindfulness programme which
  maximized the patients chances of a pathway to a
  balanced and healthy lifestyle.

### Timely access to care and treatment

Patients were able to access care and treatment from the practice within an acceptable timescale for their needs.

- Patients had timely access to initial assessment, test results, diagnosis and treatment.
- Waiting times, delays and cancellations were minimal and managed appropriately.
- Patients with the most urgent needs had their care and treatment prioritised.



# Are services responsive to people's needs?

• Patients reported that the appointment system was easy to use and access was good.

### Listening and learning from concerns and complaints

The practice took complaints and concerns seriously and responded to them appropriately to improve the quality of care.

• Information about how to make a complaint or raise concerns was available. Staff treated patients who made complaints compassionately.

• The complaint policy and procedures were in line with recognised guidance. The practice learned lessons from individual concerns and complaints and from analysis of trends. It acted as a result to improve the quality of

Please refer to the Evidence Tables for further information.



# Are services well-led?

# We rated the practice and all of the population groups as good for providing a well-led service.

### Leadership capacity and capability

Leaders had the capacity and skills to deliver high-quality, sustainable care.

- Leaders were knowledgeable about issues and priorities relating to the quality and future of services. They understood the challenges and were addressing them.
- Leaders at all levels were visible and approachable. They worked closely with staff and others to make sure they prioritised compassionate and inclusive leadership.
- The practice had effective processes to develop leadership capacity and skills, including planning for the future leadership of the practice.

### Vision and strategy

The practice had a clear vision and credible strategy to deliver high quality, sustainable care.

- There was a statement of purpose which set out a clear set of values. The practice had a realistic strategy and supporting business plans to achieve priorities. The practice developed its vision, values and strategy jointly with patients, staff and external partners.
- Staff were aware of and understood the vision, values and strategy and their role in achieving them.
- The strategy was in line with health and social priorities across the region. The practice planned its services to meet the needs of the practice population.
- The practice monitored progress against delivery of the strategy.

### **Culture**

The practice had a culture of high-quality sustainable care.

- Staff stated they felt respected, supported and valued. They were proud to work in the practice.
- The practice focused on the needs of patients.
- Leaders and managers acted on behaviour and performance inconsistent with the vision and values.
- Openness, honesty and transparency were demonstrated when responding to incidents and complaints. The provider was aware of and had systems to ensure compliance with the requirements of the duty of candour.

- Staff we spoke with told us they were able to raise concerns and were encouraged to do so. They had confidence that these would be addressed.
- There were processes for providing all staff with the development they need. This included appraisal and career development conversations. All staff received regular annual appraisals in the last year. Staff were supported to meet the requirements of professional revalidation where necessary.
- Clinical staff were considered valued members of the practice team. They were given protected time for professional development and evaluation of their clinical work.
- There was a strong emphasis on the safety and well-being of all staff.
- The practice actively promoted equality and diversity. Staff had received equality and diversity training. Staff felt they were treated equally.
- There were positive relationships between staff and teams.

### **Governance arrangements**

There were clear responsibilities, roles and systems of accountability to support good governance and management.

- Structures, processes and systems to support good governance and management were clearly set out, understood and effective. The governance and management of partnerships, joint working arrangements and shared services promoted interactive and co-ordinated person-centred care.
- Staff were clear on their roles and accountabilities including in respect of safeguarding and infection prevention and control
- Practice leaders had established proper policies, procedures and activities to ensure safety and assured themselves that they were operating as intended.

### Managing risks, issues and performance

There were clear processes for managing risks, issues and performance.

- There was an effective, process to identify, understand, monitor and address current and future risks including risks to patient safety.
- The practice had processes to manage current and future performance. Performance of employed clinical



### Are services well-led?

staff could be demonstrated through audit of their consultations, prescribing and referral decisions. Practice leaders had oversight of national and local safety alerts, incidents, and complaints.

- Clinical audit had a positive impact on quality of care and outcomes for patients. There was clear evidence of action to change practice to improve quality.
- The practice had plans in place and had trained staff for major incidents.
- The practice implemented service developments and where efficiency changes were made this was with input from clinicians to understand their impact on the quality of care.

#### Appropriate and accurate information

The practice acted on appropriate and accurate information.

- Quality and operational information was used to ensure and improve performance. Performance information was combined with the views of patients.
- Quality and sustainability were discussed in relevant meetings where all staff had sufficient access to information.
- The practice used performance information which was reported and monitored and management and staff were held to account.
- The information used to monitor performance and the delivery of quality care was accurate and useful. There were plans to address any identified weaknesses.
- The practice used information technology systems to monitor and improve the quality of care.
- The practice submitted data or notifications to external organisations as required.

• There were robust arrangements in line with data security standards for the availability, integrity and confidentiality of patient identifiable data, records and data management systems.

### Engagement with patients, the public, staff and external partners

The practice involved patients, the public, staff and external partners to support high-quality sustainable services.

- A full and diverse range of patients', staff and external partners' views and concerns were encouraged, heard and acted on to shape services and culture. There was an active patient participation group.
- The service was transparent, collaborative and open with stakeholders about performance.

### **Continuous improvement and innovation**

There were systems and processes for learning, continuous improvement and innovation.

- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement.
- Staff knew about improvement methods and had the skills to use them.
- The practice made use of internal and external reviews of incidents and complaints. Learning was shared and used to make improvements.
- Leaders and managers encouraged staff to take time out to review individual and team objectives, processes and performance.

Please refer to the Evidence Tables for further information.