

# Hollyhurst Medical Centre

### **Inspection report**

Date of inspection visit: 21 Aug to 21 Aug 2018 Date of publication: 01/10/2018

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 rating December 2016 - Good)

The key questions at this inspection 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 Hollyhurst Medical Centre on 21 August 2018 as part of our current inspection programme.

At this inspection we found:

- The practice had systems in place 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. However, the fire risk assessment for the branch surgery at Elvaston Road was basic and lacked the necessary details.
- The practice routinely reviewed the effectiveness and appropriateness of the care it provided. It ensured that care and treatment was delivered according to evidence-based guidelines.

- Staff involved and treated patients with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect.
- Patients found the appointment system easy to use and reported that they were able to access care when they needed it.
- There was a focus on continuous learning and improvement at all levels of the organisation.

There were areas where the provider should make improvements:

- Improve and strengthen the current fire risk assessment in respect of the branch surgery.
- Familiarise all staff with the practice business continuity plan.
- Continue to recruit patient participation group members and seek their views in relation to the running, development and performance of the practice.

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

Please refer to the detailed report and the evidence tables for further information.

### 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 Care Quality Commission (CQC) lead inspector. The team also included a GP specialist adviser.

### Background to Hollyhurst Medical Centre

Hollyhurst Medical Centre provides care and treatment to approximately 4,700 patients of all ages from Blaydon and the surrounding areas. The practice is part of NHS Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group and operates on a Personal Medical Services (PMS) contract.

The practice provides services from the following addresses, which we visited during this inspection:

#### **Main surgery**

Hollyhurst Medical Centre

8 Front Street

Blaydon On Tyne

NE21 4RP

#### **Branch surgery**

Elvaston Road Surgery

7 Elvaston Road

Ryton

NE40 3NT

The main surgery is located in ex-residential two storey premises. There is good access to the premises and all consultation rooms are on the ground floor. On-street car parking is available nearby.

The branch surgery is located in ex-commercial three storey premises. The doors to the premises are not automatic and patients with mobility issues could struggle to access the building and consultation rooms which are spread over three floors. The building does not have a lift. On-street parking is available nearby.

Patients can book appointments in person, on-line or by telephone. Opening hours are as follows:

#### **Hollyhurst Medical Centre**

Monday to Wednesday and Friday – 8am to 6pm

Thursday 7.15am to 6pm

#### **Elvaston Road Surgery**

Monday and Wednesday to Friday – 8.45am to 6pm

Tuesday 8.45am to 7pm

The main and branch surgeries were previously registered with the Care Quality Commission as two separate locations with separate patient lists. However, the provider merged the locations in July 2017. Patients registered with the practice are therefore able to access GP, nurse and healthcare assistant appointments at

either location. They are also able to access pre-bookable GP and nurse appointments from 8am to 8pm on a weekday and from 9am to 2pm on a weekend at nearby extended access/extra care facilities.

The service for patients requiring urgent medical attention out of hours is provided by the NHS 111 service and GatDoc.

#### The practice has:

- One lead GP (male)
- Two salaried GPs (both female)
- Two practice nurses (female)
- Two healthcare assistants (female)
- 13 non-clinical staff members including a business manager, practice manager, secretaries, administrators, receptionists, apprentice and cleaners.

The average life expectancy for the male practice population is 78 (CCG average 77 and national average 79) and for the female population 82 (CCG average 82 and national average 83). 22% of the practices' patient population are in the over 65 age group.

At 62%, the percentage of the practice population reported as having a long-standing health condition was higher than the CCG and national averages of 54%. Generally, a higher percentage of patients with a long-standing health condition can lead to an increased demand for GP services.

At 65% the percentage of the practice population recorded as being in paid work or full-time education was higher than the CCG average of 61% and national average of 62%. The practice area is in the sixth most deprived decile. Deprivation levels affecting children and adults were lower than local and national averages.



### 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. Learning from safeguarding incidents were available to staff. Staff who acted as chaperones were trained for their role and 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.)
- Staff took steps, including working with other agencies, to protect patients from abuse, neglect, 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.
- 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 practice was performing well and below local and national averages in relation to the prescribing of antibacterials, antibiotics and hypnotics.
- A pharmacist attended the practice on a weekly basis to support practice staff with medicines optimisation, safe and cost-effective prescribing
- Good processes were in place to ensure safe prescribing of high risk medicines.
- The systems for managing and storing medicines, including vaccines, medical gases, emergency medicines and equipment, minimised risks.
- Staff prescribed and 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 some arrangements in place to ensure safety.

 There were comprehensive risk assessments in relation to the majority of safety issues. However, the fire risk assessment in respect of the branch surgery was basic and lacked detail such as identification of fire hazards,



### Are services safe?

staff or patients who could be at risk (i.e. those with mobility issues), sources of possible ignition (i.e. oxygen) or an evaluation of whether the existing fire precautions were sufficient.

• The practice monitored and reviewed safety using information from a range of sources.

#### Lessons learned and improvements made

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.

#### 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 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.
- Systems were in place to ensure there was appropriate and timely follow up of older patients discharged from hospital. The practice was part of a locality scheme with several other practices in the area and had employed two care navigators. Their role included visiting patients discharged from hospital to assess their medical and social needs to prevent readmission to hospitals. They also assessed the needs of frail elderly patients to help avoid admission to hospital. The practice ensured that their care plans and prescriptions were updated to reflect any extra or changed needs.
- 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. 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.
- Adults with newly diagnosed cardiovascular disease were offered statins for secondary prevention when appropriate. People with suspected hypertension were offered ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and patients with atrial fibrillation were assessed for stroke risk and treated as appropriate.
- The practice was able to demonstrate how it identified patients with commonly undiagnosed conditions, for example diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), atrial fibrillation and hypertension)
- The practice's performance on quality indicators for long term conditions was comparable to local and national averages.

Families, children and young people:

- Childhood immunisation uptake rates were in line with the target percentage of 90% or above.
- 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 79%, which was below the 80% coverage target for the national screening programme but above the local average of 71% and national average of 72%. The practice had carried out an audit in April 2018 to identify women aged between 25 and 28 who had never had a cervical smear test. The audit identified 37 women who were subsequently sent a letter reminding them of the importance of having a smear test and an information booklet. 19 of these women (49%) subsequently attended the practice for a smear test. The remaining 19 women were sent a further letter and plans were in place to contact any remaining non-attenders by phone.
- The practice's uptake for breast and bowel cancer screening was comparable with local and national averages.
- 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:



### Are services effective?

- End of life care was delivered in a coordinated way which took into account the needs of those 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 had a system for vaccinating patients with an underlying medical condition according to the recommended schedule.
- The practice had established a weekly evening drug addiction reduction (methadone) clinic in conjunction with a local drug and alcohol support agency. Patients participating in the programme were seen a minimum of once per month or more often if unsettled.

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 ensured they were referred to the local mental health crisis team.
- 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.
- The practices performance on quality indicators for mental health was in line with local and national averages.

#### **Monitoring care and treatment**

The practice had a comprehensive programme of quality improvement activity and routinely reviewed the effectiveness and appropriateness of the care provided. Where appropriate, clinicians took part in local and national improvement initiatives.

 Practice attainment for the 11 clinical indicators in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) scheme were comparable with local and national averages.

- The overall QOF exception rate was comparable with local and national averages. However, at 20% the clinical exception rate for the mental health indicator was higher than the CCG and national averages of 11%. The lead GP was able to explain that this was due to to the practice only having 11 patients on their mental health register. As three of these patients had failed to attend review appointments, despite being sent three recall letters they had been clinically excepted. This had affected the practice exception reporting rate.
- The practice used information about care and treatment to make improvements.
- The practice was involved in quality improvement activity. Where appropriate, clinicians took part in local and national improvement initiatives.

#### **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.
- The practice provided staff with ongoing support. There
  was an induction programme for new staff. This
  included one to one meetings, appraisals, coaching and
  mentoring, clinical supervision and revalidation.
- 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.



### Are services effective?

- The practice shared clear and accurate information with relevant professionals when discussing care delivery for people with long term conditions and when coordinating healthcare for care home residents. They 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
- 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.
- We noted during the inspection that the written consent form used by the provider to record consent for minor surgery did not contain a section for completion if the patient lacked capacity to consent. The business manager provided evidence post-inspection to show that the form had been amended accordingly.

Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.



# Are services caring?

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

#### Effective needs assessment, care and treatment

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People whose circumstances make them vulnerable:



# Are services caring?

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#### **Effective staffing**

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- 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.
- The practice provided staff with ongoing support. There
  was an induction programme for new staff. This
  included one to one meetings, appraisals, coaching and
  mentoring, clinical supervision and revalidation.
- 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.



# Are services caring?

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- 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.
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# 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. It 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. Access at the branch surgery could be a problem for patients with mobility issues due to the layout of the premises and lack of lift to upper floor consultation rooms. However, patients registered with the practice were able to access GP and nurse appointments at either location.
- 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 navigators employed by the practice ensured both the social and medical needs of older, frail and vulnerable patients were being met. 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 urgent appointments for those with enhanced needs.

#### 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.
- All parents or guardians calling with concerns about a child under the age of 16 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, extended opening hours at the main surgery on a Thursday morning and at the branch surgery on a Tuesday evening. Patients registered with the practice were also able to access pre-bookable GP and nurse appointments from 8am to 8pm on a weekday and from 9am to 2pm on a weekend at nearby extended access/extra care facilities.

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.

#### 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.



# Are services responsive to people's needs?

- Waiting times, delays and cancellations were minimal and managed appropriately.
- Patients with the most urgent needs had their care and treatment prioritised.
- Patients reported that the appointment system was easy to use.
- The practices GP patient survey results (published July 2018) were generally in line with local and national averages for questions relating to access to care and treatment. However, they had scored below local and national averages in respect of the time patients had to wait to be called in for their booked appointments. This reflected the findings of the practices own patient survey and feedback on CQC comment cards. The practice was aware of dissatisfaction in this area and were monitoring the situation.

#### 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 care.

Please refer to the evidence tables for further information.



### Are services well-led?

# We rated the practice 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 clear vision and set of values. The practice had a realistic strategy and supporting business plans to achieve priorities.
- 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 care 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.
- Systems and processes were in place to support the safety and well-being of all staff. However, the fire risk assessment for the branch surgery at Evanston Road was basic and lacked sufficient detail.
- 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 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 policies, procedures and activities to ensure safety and assured themselves that they were operating as intended.

#### Managing risks, issues and performance

There were clear and effective 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. Practice leaders had oversight of 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.



### Are services well-led?

- The practice had plans in place for major incidents, including disaster recovery and business continuity plans. However, some staff we spoke with were unaware of the practice business continuity plan.
- The practice considered and understood the impact on the quality of care of service changes or developments.

#### Appropriate and accurate information

The practice acted upon 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. The practice was participating in a pilot scheme to ensure all medical records were digitised and scanned onto a patient's electronic medical record.

# 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.
- The practice carried out their own patient surveys. A
   patient participation group (PPG) was in existence but
   membership had dwindled and the practice were
   struggling to recruit new members despite repeated
   attempts. PPG member views were not routinely sought
   in relation to the running, development or performance
   of the practice
- The service was transparent, collaborative and open with stakeholders about performance.

#### **Continuous improvement and innovation**

There was evidence of 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.