

GP SURGERIES

GENERAL PRACTITIONER REQUIREMENTS

Figures from NHS England state a ratio of 2400 – 2800 patients per GP.

The Kingfisher Surgery has 3 full time doctors, who treat 6000 patients. The Newport Pagnell Medical Centre has 7 full time doctors including one registrar, 3 doctors who work for ¾ of a full time job, and 2 doctors who work half days. They treat 18,500 patients.

Therefore 24,500 patients are catered for by 13 full time doctors = a patient to doctor ratio of 1884 patients to 1 doctor.

Both surgeries felt that a ratio of around 2000 patients to 1 doctor was more suitable.

However, both practices stated a need to expand facilities rather than doctors.

An increase of 1300-1400 homes would generate a further 2.4 patients per household adding a further 3360 patients to the list. This would mean employing one further FULL time doctor and increasing part time hours.

FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS

Plans for the Kingfisher centre are very fluid as it is currently being managed by a third party. NHS will aim to start a procurement process for a new third party around June 2015. It has been mentioned by the current occupiers that they do not consider the building fit for purpose.

The Newport Pagnell Medical Centre (NPMC) is very close to its patient capacity from a building point of view, and intends to take on a further 584 patients. While there may not be any need for another surgery, the surgery will probably restructure their services to cater for the increased population. The most feasible option might be to maintain GP services in the current facilities, using this as the central hub, whilst ancillary services are such as physiotherapy are moved out to satellite centres. This requires significant investment from possibly public and private sectors.

Difficulties in obtaining appointments may relate more to the changing nature (and hence duration) of consultations rather than purely to the number of available doctors.