

Future Health and Care Services for the Local Community in Victoria Park

Work is progressing to decide which health and care services could be delivered from the Victoria Park Medical Centre.

The very difficult decision was taken to close the medical centre on 11th August 2021, due to ongoing clinical staffing shortages and the risk to patient safety. Before the decision was made medical centre staff, Somerset CCG and neighbouring GP practices tried to find a way to provide safe patient services at the practice. All possible alternative options were explored, but it was not possible to find a way to provide a permanent and safe service.

What is happening?

Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is working with NHS colleagues, the County Council, and the Victoria Park Community Centre to find a long-term solution.

Their aim is to make sure that the health and care needs of the local community are met now and into the future. The priority is to make the most of the medical centre's location in the heart of Bridgwater so that care can be provided closer to home where possible.

How is the work being done?

Getting to a solution that has a long-term future, meets local health needs and is affordable involves several steps, such as:

- Looking at the data about people living in the Victoria Park. For example, how old are they? Do they have young families? Do they care for someone in their family? Do they have disabilities?
- Finding out about local people's health needs and how they have changed since the medical centre opened. This means looking at things such as how many people have a long-term health condition like diabetes? Do people smoke, need help to manage their weight and to keep well?
- Understanding any challenges with the location of Victoria Park in Bridgwater, such as is there a bus service, how many people have cars?

- Listening to the views of the local community about what they would like to have provided locally
- Finding out whether the local hospital or GP practices could provide some services from the site of the medical centre
- Getting all possible solutions on the table and narrowing them down to find one that meets the needs of the Victoria Park area.

How has the local community been involved?

In October, the CCG held three drop-in sessions at the community centre and ran an online survey to gather views and feedback from former patients and the local community. All views given were gathered and analysed by an independent expert who produced an engagement report which was published in December 2021. A copy is available [here](#). People who attended the drop-in sessions or completed a survey were asked if they would like to be kept informed of progress.

The CCG contacted those people who asked to be kept informed and invited them to come along to an online meeting on 10th January 2022. The meeting covered what possible solutions were being considered and the process to test that they were workable. There was an opportunity for people to ask questions and to give their feedback. A report of the meeting is available [here](#)

All the feedback that has been given will help to shape the proposed solution.

When will a decision be made?

The CCG is looking to decide on a solution by the end of March if possible. Before a decision can be made it needs to:

- Carefully consider all possible solutions and narrow these down to one
- Take this proposal to the CCG's Governing Body for it to make a formal decision.

How can you find out more?

We will keep you informed of progress and let you know when we have more details about any proposed solutions. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email somccg.engagement@nhs.net or call 08000 851067.