

**Report for the Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Primary Care Commissioning Committee**

Case for the Retention of Sandiway Surgery

5th November 2020

Case for the Retention of Sandiway Surgery

The importance of Sandiway Surgery

- There has been a surgery in Sandiway since 1928
- Three villages and rural settlements are served by Sandiway surgery
- There are 3747 Patients registered at that surgery - 65% of village residents
- 38% of these are either under 16 (cant drive) or over 70 (not all able to drive) and currently have easy access to the surgery
- 6000 patients (4550 from CW8) used the surgery April 19 to Mar 20 (DMP data)
- 79% of village area respondents to DMP survey voted against closure
- The existence of the surgery was a significant determining factor in CWaC decision to make Cuddington/Sandiway a Key Service Centre for this rural area
- We need to retain a primary care facility in our Key Service Centre

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How this proposal will affect patients

- **Closure means that the closest medical services are in Northwich, Kingsmead, Winsford or Weaverham**
 - **There are no viable public transport links to enable patients to get to appointments at any of these surgeries**
 - **3747 patients are going to be left 5 miles from their nearest DMP surgery, with no reasonable access other than by car or (expensive) taxi**
- **Closing the surgery denies a significant proportion of the vulnerable population access to primary medical care close to home - the pressure on ambulances and A&E will increase**
 - **Reliance on e-consultation and internet services cannot be more than a partial solution to this problem for patients**
 - **Many older people either do not have the equipment to access these services or the skills and confidence to use them**
 - **The retention of the existing surgery in the village is essential for patients with physical or mental problems who have difficulty with the telephone or video consultation**

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The reasons for closure given by Danebridge to PATIENTS :

Danebridge implied that the CQC audit outcome “Requires Improvement” related to safety issues at Sandiway

CQC actually downgraded the Practice citing management and leadership failings across the whole Practice saying that Sandiway is fit for the services being delivered

Danebridge said that safety issues at Sandiway required significant investment which was not affordable

They had not costed any work to upgrade Sandiway surgery for which grants are available

Danebridge told patients that Sandiway surgery cannot be sustained because of the shortage of salaried GPs

Closing Sandiway will not change the patient to GP ratio

Danebridge said that provision of modern primary healthcare is becoming increasingly difficult and delivery across multiple sites is no longer sustainable

They still intend to operate two surgeries within one mile of each other

The reasons for closure given by Danebridge to the PCC can be resolved without closure of the surgery.

The Submission before you from Danebridge is very different from the reasons given when they consulted their patients

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Patients request the PCC to refuse the application by Danebridge Medical Practice to close Sandiway surgery for the following reasons:

- Access to alternative medical centres nearly impossible by public transport, very difficult by car - especially for vulnerable people - and expensive by taxi.
- Patients, particularly the elderly or with physical and/ or mental problems, need a real person to provide advice on what help is available.
- Closure is in direct contravention of NHS core values – to provide services that ‘meet the needs of everyone’.
- Closure runs counter to CCG Overview Plan and undermines the assumptions of the CWaC Local Plan
- Closure reduces medical provision in the villages to below that available before the NHS came into existence.
- Closure denies access to medical services to a significant number in the villages and surrounding rural area.

Patient Position

- Patients are not asking for a new surgery just the retention of the existing facility suitably upgraded
- Leaving unwell, elderly and vulnerable patients to find their way into Northwich is not the answer
- If the Practice does not wish to manage the Sandiway surgery then the CCG / PCC need to consider how they can discharge their duty of primary care provision to 3747 patients
- Patients are willing to actively engage with the Practice or the CCG in investigating how they can continue to have a Primary Care facility in Sandiway, which has existed there for almost 100 years

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