

PRESS RELEASE

From Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forums Staffordshire

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The relocation to new premises of Penkridge Health Centre – which has been the focus of much concern among Penkridge residents – was the subject of a report issued recently by the Public and Patients Involvement in Health Forum for South Western Staffordshire Primary Care Trust. The report was published on 02nd May 2005. **Email Copy attached.** Copies can be obtained from PPI Staffs 01785 600619

It was the nature of the consultation process which seemed to arouse most concern and it was this that the Forum studied prior to issuing its report.

The Forum found that consultation with the public only began when proposals for the relocation had been well developed within the practice that operates from the health centre. Contrary to the process that is currently required, there was no attempt to involve patients and the public at the very earliest stage, when problems with the existing centre first became apparent.

Rather, when consultation did take place, stakeholders were presented with an almost definitive plan. This was done at a public meeting with little opportunity to study the proposals beforehand. Further the only way in which stakeholders were able to make their views known was by asking questions or making observations orally, to most of which the representatives of the practice and the developers made oral responses justifying the proposed course of action.

The Forum also concluded that not only did the consultation exercise not start early enough, but it did not allow for either the practice or the public to study the views of the other party at length and it did not make provision for those people who were not confident or able to make their views known at an open public meeting.

It is the view of the Forum that there remain doubts as to whether or not the proposed relocation of the Penkridge Health Centre will be the best way of addressing the problems of the existing health centre and optimising the provision of health care to the people who live in the area.

Speaking after publication of the report, Chairman of the PPI Forum Ian Collard said:

“The Forum is urging the South Western PCT to call on the practice to delay the start of the relocation process. That will allow the people served by the centre to

participate in a more thorough consultation that allows for the patient perspective to be brought to bear on the problem.”

"In order to allow the people in Penkrige to express their views on this report and the proposals for the surgery, the PPI Forum will be holding its next meeting at the **Haling Dene Centre, Penkrige, on 7th July 2005, starting at 6pm.** All members of the public are welcome to attend."

ENDS

Notes for the Editors:

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Notes to the Editor:

1. There are 59 PPI Forums in the west midlands region with over 500 members.
2. There is a Patient and Public Involvement in Health (PPI) Forum for every NHS Trust, NHS Primary Care Trust and NHS Foundation Trust in England.
3. PPI Forums started 1 December 2003.
4. Each Forum's remit is to:
 - Find out what people really think about their health and healthcare services locally and take action
 - Independently watch over the quality of local healthcare
 - Shape decisions that impact on our health
 - Be a force for fairness and change
5. The Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) is an independent, non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Health. It works to ensure that the public is involved in decision-making about health and health services. The Commission is based in Birmingham with

nine Regional Centres across England, supporting 572 PPI Forums and 5,000 members

6. Anyone interested in volunteering as a Forum member, please contact James Chapman on Tel: 0121 222 4403 or Email: james.chapman@cppih.org.