

Geraldine Hoban
Chief Operating Officer
CCG.

Dear Geraldine Hoban,

GP Closures Brighton & Hove City

I am writing to you on behalf of the Older People's Council of BHCC. At our June meeting a number of members expressed concern about the recent closure of Goodwood Court Medical Centre. The concerns were particularly in relation to the speed of the closure and the situation for older residents who may lack mobility and be in need of repeat prescriptions. In addition, the doctor patient relationship for many older people is a central and important one. The initial advice given to patients who needed medical attention to go to the centre of Brighton to the station walk in clinic, ring 111 or attend A&E seemed to be completely inadequate for those with complex medical needs. It also mitigates against the recent joint efforts to help older people stay in their own homes, with support, rather than go to A&E.

We are particularly concerned, as this is the second major closure of a GP practice in the City in recent months, the other being Eaton Place Surgery - Kemp Town. Whilst we appreciate that if standards have declined to a point of danger action has to be taken, nevertheless there would seem to be a whole range of options that could be considered before full closure.

As you will appreciate our remit is particularly with older people and we would like to know what the current position is with regard to those affected by both these closures. Also, as importantly, what provision for additional GP services is being considered at a strategic level in the unfortunate event that such a situation should arise again in the future.

Many elderly people have been alarmed that such a closure could take place so swiftly and would want reassurance that all steps possible are being taken to improve and strengthen our local GP services across the City.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Morley
Secretary, Older People's Council BHCC

