

Almondsbury Surgery and Hanham Health proposed merger – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Will the walk-in Service at Almondsbury Surgery continue?

A. It is anticipated that the merger itself will not bring about any changes to the current operations of Almondsbury Surgery including the walk-in service that is offered. Any future changes will be subject to wide consultation with all key stakeholders.

Q. Please explain the meaning of ‘at scale’.

A. The meaning of ‘at scale’ is joining forces, in which ever form, to increase the population being served. This in turn has the potential to open up opportunities that otherwise may not be available.

Q. Why Almondsbury Surgery and why Hanham Health – they seem so far away from one another?

A. We have conducted in-depth due diligence and partners from both practices see that strong compatibility exists between the two practices. It is considered that culture and ethos and a shared set of values, are more important criteria than geographical location. Additionally, it should be noted that Hanham Health is already active in the area, providing medical services in the nearby prisons at Leyhill and Eastwood Park, and at the MoD site in Abbey Wood so the connection is not so unusual. Hanham Health also has offices at Pin Mill, Wotton under Edge, not so far from Almondsbury. The geography of Almondsbury surgery therefore lends itself well to future, beneficial synergies. Hanham Health also has experience of delivery high quality services from a distance - an example of this being the Swanwick Lodge children’s secure unit in Southampton.

Q. Why do the practices need to merge and what are the benefits to patients?

A. From an individual perspective, a merger for Almondsbury Surgery is part of a succession plan to ensure the longevity of the surgery in its current location. Alternatives to a merger would be that the Surgery is taken over by an external body or the patient list is dispersed amongst neighbouring practices.

For Hanham Health, a merger allows the practice to rebalance its community versus custodial health care services provision.

From a joined up perspective, a merger will provide the critical mass required to meet criteria attached to opportunities for innovative and new ways of working otherwise not available; many of these addressing improved care models, access and additional/specialised service provision.

Q. Will the merger impact opening hours?

A. Current opening hours will remain. Practices are contractually obliged to provide health care services during core hours, therefore this will not change.

Q. The location of the surgery is important to users and we feel it would be a major inconvenience if there was any shift of all or any elements of the practice to other locations. Can we be assured that this is not planned?

A. It is recognised that the current geography of the two practices is not convenient to patients to move between and therefore it is very unlikely that services will be relocated.

Q. If the practices are joining as equals, why has the name of Almondsbury Surgery changed to Hanham Health?

A. Almondsbury Surgery is not changing its name. It will still be referred to as Almondsbury Surgery. It will quite simply sit beneath the Hanham Health umbrella and will adopt the Hanham Health brand.

Q. What can we expect to see changing over say the first 18-24 months, or indeed on day one?

A. The most noticeable change will be presence of the Hanham Health brand in and around Almondsbury Surgery. Current Hanham Health patients will notice reference to Almondsbury Surgery but other than this it is expected that there will be no other changes as a result of this merger. One of the first tasks for the newly formed entity will be to produce the business development plan which may see other changes in the future but until this is drafted, no further comment can be made. It should be noted also, that proposed change significantly impacting services or patients' experience of the services will always be subject to key stakeholder consultation.