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# Media Release

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## Four Scarborough GP practices explore innovative ways of working together

Over the coming months four GP practices in Scarborough are planning to work together under one name with a shared team of staff. Belgrave, Falsgrave, Peasholm and Prospect Road surgeries are in discussions about working more closely together with a view to a full merger in April 2018.

All practices will remain at their current locations but the plans are being developed for patients to be able to access services during longer opening hours and for there to be some bookable weekend appointments.

One of the lead GPs Dr Omnia Hefni said ‘this merger will allow us to provide a more flexible and accessible service to our patients while ensuring that they are able to see the most appropriate healthcare professional for their needs. As we are all aware we face significant recruitment challenges in recruiting GPs to the area and this merger will allow us to maximise our resources to deliver a comprehensive service to our patients’.

Sally Brown, Primary Care Lead for the CCG said 'GP practices working more closely together for the benefit of patients is at the heart of NHS England's future direction of travel. The CCG is fully supportive of these plans to work more closely which we feel will provide additional benefits for patients including greater accessibility to different health and social care professionals. In the future it may also allow patients to access a wider choice of services in their communities close to home rather than having to travel to Scarborough or York Hospitals'

The initial response from the Patients representative group at each of the practices has been favourable. Over the coming months the Practices will be working with these groups to ensure that all Patients are informed about any changes and where possible they reflect Patient's views. .

- ENDS -

**Notes to editors – about the Scarborough and Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group**

- We are responsible for commissioning planned care, unplanned care, mental health care, rehabilitation care, community care, children's and maternity services, plus some services provided by GP Practices
- Our governing body comprises 13 members, six of whom are local GPs
- In 2016/17 we spent £181 million to pay for the health services for our population
- We commission services for around 119,000 patients, registered at 15 GP Practices in Scarborough and Ryedale

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