

Call for Public to Act on Walk in Centre Changes.

Seaham Town Council are urging the public to speak up on proposed new changes to the Town's £10m NHS walk-in Centre only opened 3 years ago, as the NHS propose major changes to the services available.

Seaham Town Council are extremely concerned about the way people in the Seaham area are being consulted with only 87 places available at the consultation event on April 27, 6pm-8pm at Seaham Golf Club. The Council feels that a Town with a population of over 22,000 deserves a better form of consultation at a larger venue and is encouraging the public to contact the organiser, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG to insist that they hold more and larger consultation events.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Edward Bell stated "the NHS consultation is so confusing for the public that we fear few of them will give their views until it's too late and the changes have been made, at a point when they are negatively affected by them". He added "We want to ensure that our walk-in centre becomes a Hub for the GP practices in the Seaham area with extended opening times, enhanced GP practices. As Seaham is a rapidly improving and growing tourist town I would also like to see a 24 hour minor injuries unit here rather than anywhere else".

At a recent meeting of the Town Council, Dr Mansingh and Dr George from Marlborough Surgery explained that a Hub is a place where resources are invested collectively by all the local practices for the health and welfare of the local patients. The NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG are saying the current walk-in centre is too expensive to run and hence needs to be replaced by Hub model. Patients with minor ailments, injuries and acute health needs will be seen by advanced nurse practitioners in the Hub. If the Nurse practitioners are not clinically sure about any patient, they seek the help of a GP from the local practice who will be in charge of overseeing the Hub arrangement. This will improve care and also reduce A&E attendance and ambulance use.

Conditions seen will include, headaches, ear problems, sore throats, sprains and strains, wound infections, minor burns, minor head injuries, skin conditions, chest problems, abdominal pain, insect and animal bites, injuries to the back, shoulder and chest, emergency contraception.

Suspected broken bones will be referred to Peterlee UCC.

The CCG are proposing three different options with the Town Council and local GPs encouraging the public to vote for option three. The public can do this by attending the golf club event, by completing the survey posted out to every household in Seaham or by contacting the CCG online or by Phone on 0191 371 3222.

Please don't miss this opportunity to influence the future of healthcare provision in Seaham as this will have lasting effects for many years to come.