



Dr David Cooksey  
Dr Elisabeth Henderson  
Dr M Charles Holt  
Dr Kirsty Robinson  
Dr Bethan Williams

Dear Patient,

We are writing to inform you of our intention to close the Cockburnspath branch surgery in August 2017.

There are a number of reasons behind this decision which we have summarised below:

1. The surgery building at Cockburnspath was originally designed as a residential property. There is no level access or disabled facilities. The options for improvements to comply with modern standards are difficult due to the close proximity of the premises to the main road and location within a conservation area.
2. Lone working by our GPs from the site is unsatisfactory for both doctor and patient safety.
3. The Information Technology (IT) provision to the Cockburnspath Surgery has been unreliable in recent years and has become more problematic lately despite numerous site visits by NHS Borders IT department. This has previously led to the suspension of the weekly, scheduled surgery.
4. There is a national shortage of GPs and it is becoming more difficult to recruit GPs in rural areas. In addition many GPs do not wish to become Partners in practices due to the financial commitment involved. Closing Cockburnspath surgery may help with the future recruitment of new partners due to reduced financial investment and risk. This will help secure a sustainable future for the practice allowing local GP services to continue in the area.

We wish to reassure you that the medical practice will continue to provide you with the usual general medical services from the other two premises in Coldingham and Eyemouth. Home visits, where deemed clinically appropriate, will continue to be provided to eligible patients.

Over recent years, we have established an arrangement with the local shop in Cockburnspath to hand out dispensed prescription medication to patients who have signed up for this service. It is our intention to continue this service on a weekly basis following the closure of the surgery.

If you use public transport, Perryman's Buses operate a public bus service (route 253) between Cockburnspath, Coldingham and Eyemouth, which allows access to both morning and afternoon surgery times. Services in both directions between Cockburnspath and Eyemouth run approximately every hour throughout the day during normal practice opening hours.

We understand that you may have questions or concerns about the decision to close the Cockburnspath branch surgery and we ask you please to get in touch with us to discuss these.



You can do this in a number of ways:

By phoning Public Involvement at NHS Borders on 0800 731 4052 (free of charge)

By sending an email to [public.involvement@borders.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:public.involvement@borders.scot.nhs.uk)

By writing to Public Involvement  
Clinical Governance and Quality  
Borders General Hospital  
Melrose  
TD6 9BS

If you wish to get in touch with NHS Borders about this matter, please do so by Friday July 21<sup>st</sup> 2017.

We will write to you again between July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 to inform you of what will happen next.

Yours sincerely,

*Kirsty Robinson*

Dr Kirsty Robinson  
Administration Partner on behalf of Eyemouth Medical Practice