

## August 2017 – Surgery Newsletter



The Government via NHS England is actively trying to get surgeries to work together and in some parts of the country, huge areas have seen dozens of practices come together in what's called 'Super-Partnerships'. Invariably this has always resulted in many mergers, with some smaller practices being swallowed up and patients having to travel further to see a GP and continuity of care being affected as a result. NHS England have also made it very clear that smaller practices like ours are not the future and that organisations with 30,000 to 50,000 patients are preferred. As such many existing and new contracts will only be made available to these larger practices which could affect the financial viability of those left behind.

Here at Great Bentley Surgery, we know our patients value the continuity of care and the personal touch we are able to provide given our smaller size. We have always been very mindful of wanting to keep this whilst planning to protect the surgery's future here in Great Bentley Village. However, we also need to be in a position that we do not miss out on any future opportunities due to being small, which could result in the practice becoming financially unviable. For the last 6 months, we have been talking to a small group of like-minded practices spread around North East Essex to create an organisation. The single most important factor for us all is to keep our identity and autonomy so we can always make decisions based on what's best for the surgery and our patients, but not miss out of any opportunities ahead.



We've now created a Limited Liability Partnership with 5 other practices, so that we have 3 in Tendring and 3 in Colchester. This gives us an excellent coverage of the area and will allow us to potentially provide more services and share resources. The aim is for this to secure all of our futures for our patients and the new group is called the North East Essex GP Network. We even have a basic website already which you can view at [www.NEEGPNetwork.com](http://www.NEEGPNetwork.com) and our logo is to the left.

### **Mobile phones**

We are seeing an increased use of mobile phones DURING consultations with our health care assistants, nurses and doctors. Whilst we are happy for mobile phones to be used in the waiting room, using them in consultations is completely inappropriate. We hear stories of phones being answered and doctors being parent asking to speak to a nurse again as they were not listening to the advice given to their child as they were too busy on their phone. This not only wastes our precious time, but is extremely rude!



### **Patient Participation Group**

This month the patient participation group will not be meeting due to the August break. The next meeting will be held on Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6.30pm at the Great Bentley village hall as usual.

**Richard P Miller**  
**Practice Manager**