**Same day GP appointment service to start in Fareham**

Hundreds of Fareham patients are set to benefit from a new same-day GP appointment service which will start next month.

Four of the ten GP practices in the borough are working together to develop a new way of offering same day appointments to their patients.

Highlands Practice, Jubilee Surgery, Stubbington Medical Practice and Whiteley Surgery, have joined forces to provide the new Fareham Primary Care Service (FPCS).

Highlands, Jubilee and Whiteley will launch the service on September 20 – with Stubbington joining the project from January 2, 2018.

Other practices may follow if the initiative proves successful.

But it will be run along similar lines to the Same Day Access Service (SDAS) which has been run by four of Gosport’s 11 GP practices at Gosport War Memorial since late 2015.

Fareham practices expect up to 900 phone calls every Monday from patients wanting a same day appointment, putting GPs and other staff under huge pressure to meet expectations in addition to routine appointments.

The FPCS will operate out of Fareham Community Hospital, as part of the local NHS’s commitment to introduce new services and increase use of the site.

NHS Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group has organised an online survey for patients of the participating practices to seek their views as the service is developed. The survey is available on the four practice websites.

Patients will phone their GP practice as normal and, if they need a same-day appointment, they will be asked to confirm that their details can be shared by the service.

They will then be called back in order of clinical priority with the nurse or GP having a detailed conversation with them which may result in the patient being given advice about how to take care of themselves, arrangements made for medication to be available at a pharmacy or an appointment offered.

The Gosport SDAS has received more than 90% satisfaction levels – with 60% of patients having their issue resolved on the same day through non face-to-face contact.

Dr Tom Bertram, a GP at Jubilee Surgery and the Fareham project’s clinical lead, said: “This is a really positive step for Fareham. We have already seen the service successfully rolled out in Gosport and what we want to do here is replicate that. This is not just about same day access – but extended hours as well, and we will be hoping to add additional services in future.

“We know that Fareham Community Hospital is not the easiest place for everyone to get to – but equally we know from an earlier survey that patients have told us that they would be prepared to travel further if it means they can have a same-day appointment, providing one is required.

“The service will be run by GPs, nurses and staff from all four practices. We now really want to hear from patients at the participating practices by asking them to complete the survey. Their views will help shape the service as it is developed and evolved.”

You can access the [online survey](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/farehamgpsurvey) by August 21, 2017 or key <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/farehamgpsurvey> into your internet browser.