

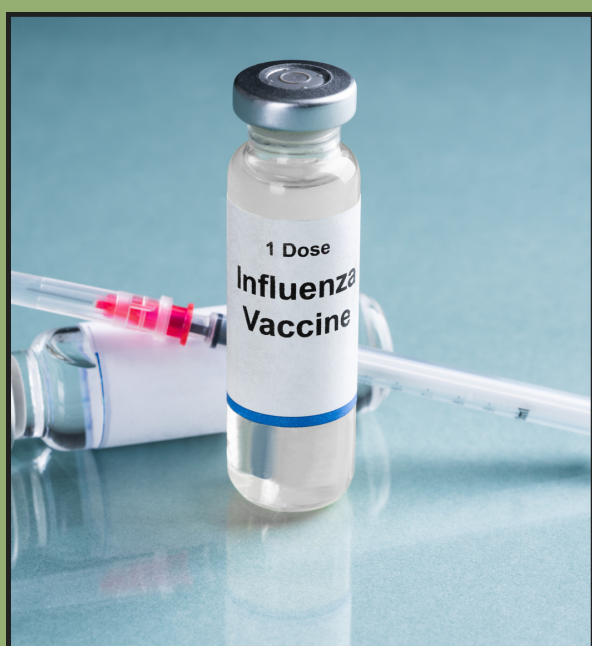


LIME TREE SURGERY
Supporting you with your health

Newsletter August 2026

ALL THE LATEST NEWS DIRECT FROM THE PRACTICE

Important Update on This Year's Flu Vaccination Programme



We would like to let our patients know that, due to a national supply issue, there has been a change to our planned flu vaccine deliveries this year.

Unfortunately, one of our vaccine suppliers has been unable to fulfil our original order, meaning that some flu vaccine stock will arrive later than expected. We have worked quickly to secure an alternative supply to ensure that we can continue to offer flu vaccinations to eligible patients.

As a result, some clinics may begin slightly later than in previous years, with full flu vaccination clinics expected to run across our sites from mid-October.

We would like to reassure patients that we remain committed to offering flu vaccinations to all eligible groups. We will contact patients as clinics become available and encourage everyone who is invited to book their appointment as soon as possible.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work to deliver this important seasonal vaccination programme and help protect our community during the winter months.

Staff Changes

We have been sorry to say goodbye to Dr Kaheebu and Dr Lewis in the last couple of months. Dr Richards is also enjoying a well earned sabbatical, while Dr Jeyakumar continues to be on Maternity Leave.

GP sessional cover has been particularly challenging over the summer, but I am pleased to confirm that Dr Annie Holmes joined the team last week in a substantive full-time post, having qualified at the beginning of August. You may recognise Dr Holmes name as she has previously worked at Lime Tree, both during her GP training, and during summer breaks at university. Dr Holmes is the daughter of our previous GP Dr Allistair Holmes who retired a few years ago. *continued on page 2*

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Staff Changes

I am also pleased to confirm that Dr Oliver Smith will be rejoining the team on a substantive basis from the end of September. You may remember Dr Smith who has worked here on a short-term locum basis, having previously worked as a GP Partner at the Practice until 2013, before moving to Australia.

We are pleased to welcome 2 new Health Care Assistants to our nursing team. Lianna and Jess.

We're also pleased to welcome back Samantha Pritchard to the team. Sam returns to her role in diabetes with additional scope to support a new obesity management pathway for patients.

Abtrace – New Technology Helping Us Deliver More Proactive Care

We are using Abtrace, a clinically approved digital system that helps our practice identify patients who may be due important tests, reviews, monitoring appointments or vaccinations, and contact them more efficiently. Abtrace works alongside our clinical records system and checks patient records daily to help ensure that no one misses important aspects of their care



What does this mean for patients?

- More timely reminders for reviews, blood tests, vaccinations and long-term condition monitoring.
- Better identification of patients who may need follow-up care or medication monitoring.
- A more joined-up approach, allowing clinicians to see everything a patient is due and address it during a single appointment whenever possible.
- Improved safety for patients taking medications that require regular monitoring.

Abtrace helps us move from a reactive approach to a more proactive one, supporting our aim to provide safer, more efficient and more personalised care. By helping the practice identify and contact patients who may need attention, it supports better long-term health outcomes and helps ensure that important care is not missed.

What you may notice.

You may receive invitations, reminders or self-booking links for appointments, tests or reviews that are due. If you are contacted by the practice, we encourage you to respond promptly so we can help keep your care up to date.

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Integrated Community Teams (ICTs) and the New Community Care Offer in Sussex

Sussex Health and Care partners are introducing Integrated Community Teams (ICTs) to help people receive more joined-up care closer to home and reduce avoidable hospital admissions. ICTs bring together GPs, community nurses, social care staff, mental health teams, pharmacists, voluntary organisations, and other local services to work as one team around patients needs.

<https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/our-work/our-priorities/integrated-community-teams/>

<https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2024/11/2.3-Integrated-Community-Teams-core-offer-and-implementation.pdf>

What is changing?

All ICTs across Sussex are developing a Core Offer, which provides a consistent approach to care in every local community. The focus is on:

- Identifying people who may be at higher risk of becoming unwell.
- Providing proactive support before a health crisis develops.
- Coordinating care across different services.
- Supporting people to manage long-term conditions at home.
- Improving access to mental health, social care, and community support.
- Helping people stay independent for longer.



How will this help reduce hospital admissions?

The new approach aims to prevent unnecessary hospital visits by:

- Offering earlier intervention when health concerns are identified.
- Providing personalised care plans for people with complex needs.
- Supporting rapid access to community services when health deteriorates.
- Connecting patients with local services that help with issues such as loneliness, housing, mobility, and wellbeing.
- Delivering more care in people's homes and communities rather than in hospital settings.

What does this mean for patients?

Patients can expect services to work more closely together, with better communication between professionals and a stronger focus on prevention. The aim is to ensure that people receive the **right care, in the right place, at the right time**, helping them remain well and avoid avoidable hospital admissions wherever possible.

Key message: Sussex's new ICT Core Offer is designed to provide more joined-up, proactive and local care, helping people stay healthier at home and reducing the need for emergency hospital treatment.

For Your Later Years & Beyond

Planning Well • Living Well • Supporting One Another **Bring your questions, ideas & experience!**



Come & Talk To Us About

- ✓ Planning Ahead
- ✓ Staying Independent
- ✓ Money, Care & Peace of Mind
- ✓ End-Of-Life Wishes
- ✓ Loss, Bereavement & Support
- ✓ And Any Questions You
Would Like To Bring



Free Coffee & Friendly Conversation



WHEN

Tuesday 20th October
2 - 3:30pm



WHERE

The Hub @ Findon
Valley Free Church



WHO

Anyone is welcome
All ages



LIME TREE SURGERY CHARITY AGM MEETING

9th September - 1 PM

This will be a face to face meeting in the Mannings Suite at Lime Tree Surgery Findon Valley. To register to attend please email amanda.hulse2@nhs.net

