

# Longer appointments for patients with long term conditions in Ellesmere Port from January

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Two centres will pilot new scheme in 2016

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Great Sutton team

A scheme designed to improve the well-being of patients with long-term conditions including asthma and diabetes is scheduled to begin in the new year in two **Ellesmere Port** medical centres.

A report by the Royal College of General Practitioners indicated that patients would benefit from more of a motivational approach, empowering them to manage their condition.

The centres identified to put this to the test are **Great Sutton** Medical Centre and Hope Farm Medical Centre.

The new approach, adopted by West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group, will give patients more time during their nurse appointment or check-up.

Patients will receive a 20-minute appointment following a previous appointment with a healthcare assistant. They will complete a range of routine long-term condition checks.

This will give the patient more time with the practice nurse to concentrate on how they will manage their long term condition.

Practice manager of Hope Farm Medical Centre, Timothy Goldsbrough, said: "We have always done well with patients with long term conditions. I think this pilot will help to further empower everyone. I think it's an exciting scheme which we will fully embrace.

"Our patients will have an action plan as opposed to a care plan – I like this approach as patients choose what they want to do and we fully support people in achieving and reaching their goals. We can also signpost them to a wide range of social care groups across Ellesmere Port and beyond."

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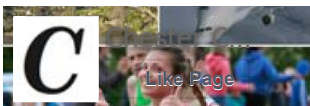
Mark Baxter

Practice manager of Hope Farm Medical Centre Tim Goldsbrough

Practice manager of Great Sutton Sandra Moss, who manages a team of 30 staff, added: "I'm very excited about this health initiative. It will be a challenge but we are looking forward to achieving even better health care outcomes for our patients with long term conditions in and around Great Sutton."

The scheme is all part of 'The West Cheshire Way', a £5 million initiative between GPs, hospitals, social care and mental health and well-being services to ensure services feel more joined up and patient-friendly focused.

The new approach is set to start on Monday, January 4.



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