

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Question submitted by: Saahi Aroori

To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Health

To be asked at the next (Council, Cabinet or Planning Committee) Meeting: City Council

Date: 26 January 2025

Question: Residents in Barne Barton struggle to access GP services locally, and there is no GP surgery based within Barne Barton itself. What is the Council doing, in partnership with the NHS, to improve access to primary care for people living in Barne Barton and St Budeaux, and will you commit to working with local residents to improve local healthcare provision?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

Plymouth City Council is not responsible for the provision of primary care services, such as GP surgeries, but remains committed to working with local residents to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Barne Barton.

NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB) is the organisation responsible for commissioning primary care services to meet the needs of the Plymouth residents (plus Torbay and Devon).

NHS Devon holds 116 Primary Medical Services contracts with GP practices and works with these practices to ensure that services are accessible, of good quality and meet the needs of their patients. NHS Devon also work closely with other parts of the local health and care system to ensure that care is joined-up, for example hospital services, so people get good experience of care when it is needed.

Barne Barton is served by several GP practices with the closest being Mayflower Medical Group's sites at Stirling Road, Trelawny and Ernesettle, as well as St Levan Surgery and Oakside Surgery. People living in Barne Barton can register with a number of practices across the city depending on their preference.

Overall access to GP practice services is very good in Plymouth, as recorded in the [GP Patient Survey](#), and residents can look up a range of feedback about each GP practice on the website. Direct feedback about local NHS services is welcomed and can be submitted directly to NHS Devon via a dedicated Patient Experience team on d-icb.patientexperience@nhs.net. Equally, feedback from residents about their own GP practice can be provided through the practice's Patient Participation Groups (PPG), which offer a route to provide constructive feedback to improve access to local GP services.

NHS Devon has no current plans to establish a new GP surgery within Barne Barton, however NHS Devon and Plymouth City Council have identified a need for a new community pharmacy in the area (see the [Plymouth Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment](#)) and is welcoming applications from pharmacy providers to meet this need.

The recently published [NHS 10 Year Plan](#) focusses on a neighbourhood approach to designing and delivering health and care services. Plymouth City Council, NHS Devon ICB, and primary care, including general practice, will be integral to the development of suitable arrangements for each neighbourhood in the Plymouth. The voice of patients is also being sought to inform this work.

These healthcare efforts will compliment ongoing work in Barne Barton to support the health of residents including all offers in the Barne Barton and St Budeaux Wellbeing Hub, such as mental health support, volunteering opportunities, guidance for long term health conditions, befriending, and employment and debt advice. In addition, city wide offers, such as [One You Plymouth](#) provide opportunities for Barne Barton residents to receive support with health-related concerns alongside more formal healthcare provision.