



## ***Communication to patients via website***

Dear Patient

You may have heard of some changes being made to the running of Beechwood Group Practice . We would like to explain to you what is happening and why.

Beechwood Group Practice has chosen to be one of a number of GP practices in North Cumbria to join North Cumbria Primary Care, an initiative designed to safeguard the future of GP services in the north of the county.

North Cumbria Primary Care is led by GPs and built on co-operative principles with the aim to create a network of great general practices working with healthcare partners, voluntary organisations and the University of Central Lancashire in West Cumbria.

North Cumbria Primary Care is a not for profit organisation which means that if we make surpluses they will be reinvested in patient care.

There is a national shortage of GPs and the problem of recruitment is worse in remote and rural areas like ours. Part of the problem is that newly qualified doctors prefer not to have the business responsibilities or the expense of owning a GP practice. North Cumbria Primary Care will take on the business responsibilities leaving our GPs to do the job they are good at, effectively treating their patients.

Nine practices in Copeland, Allerdale and Carlisle have already joined North Cumbria Primary Care..

We believe that joining North Cumbria Primary Care provides the best solution for our patients, our staff and the long term future of our practice.

We'd like to emphasise we are changing how the practice is managed not what it does. We believe that this represents a very positive opportunity for the patients of Beechwood Group Practice and all of the staff who work here.

Please contact your practice manager if you would like any more information about North Cumbria Primary Care or have any particular concerns about your care.

Thank you

***'Developing sustainable, fully integrated primary care, built locally, delivered together'.***