

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

(B) WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

(1) Submitted by Councillor Sarah Nield

In the light of the proposed merger of the Matlock and Beaconsfield GP surgeries, and with 10 GP practices closing in Brighton & Hove since 2015 , we have an ongoing situation of small local GP surgeries being absorbed into bigger hubs, which may offer patients better facilities, but at the expense of proximity and accessibility to those patients. What forward plan can be put in place to mitigate the effects of the loss of local primary care to our residents, many of whom may be elderly or otherwise vulnerable and for whom travel is often difficult? Could we, for example, have more branch surgeries so that older and frailer residents don't have to make these longer journeys when they are ill?

It seems that this is a trend which is going to continue, and the problems it creates are going to get worse as our population ages. What is the plan for how to keep primary care within reach of those who need it?

