

**Press release – 23 August 2017**

**Hammersmith & Fulham residents benefit from improved GP services**

Local GPs are reminding residents in Hammersmith & Fulham that it is easier to make a GP appointment at a time that suits them, including evenings, weekends and bank holidays.

Residents can pre-book GP appointments from 8am-8pm seven days a week and practice nurse appointments on weekday evenings and Saturdays.

These hours are in addition to existing GP services, meaning that residents now have access to primary care from 8am-8pm seven days a week.

Any patient registered with a Hammersmith & Fulham GP can access these appointments at three practices across the borough. Appointments can be booked at any one of these practices through your local GP practice or by calling NHS 111 when your GP practice is closed.

This is a really exciting time for Hammersmith & Fulham residents as they will now be able to make an appointment with a GP or nurse at a time and in a place that is convenient for them.

This new offering is set to improve GP services as well as:

- Improve patient experience
- reduce avoidable A&E visits and unscheduled hospital admissions.

Dr James Cavanagh, Vice Chair for Hammersmith and Fulham Clinical Commissioning Group said: *“Our aim is to make GP services safer and more accessible for all. We are delighted to announce these positive changes. Previously, patients have told us that they were concerned about the lack of access to GP and nurse appointments. By increasing access to these services we are responding to concerns.”*

For more information or to book an appointment with a GP or nurse please contact your local GP practice or call NHS 111.

**[ENDS]**

**Notes to editors:**

1. NHS Hammersmith and Fulham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is the GP-led organisation responsible for planning and buying (commissioning) health services for the people living in the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

We are made up of 30 GP practices serving a registered patient population of 190,000. We are committed to improving the care provided to patients,

reducing health inequalities and raising the quality and standards of GP practices whilst achieving a financial balance.

<http://www.hammersmithfulhamccg.nhs.uk/>

2. Evening and weekend GP appointments are open to all patients in Hammersmith and Fulham, seven days a week. You can book an appointment from your own practice with a GP at three practices across the borough. For more information:

<http://www.hammersmithfulhamccg.nhs.uk/your-services/gps.aspx>