

Community Update:

GP access and the Greenferns site

A message from Laura Skaife-Knight, Chief Executive, NHS Grampian & Fiona Mitchelhill, Chief Officer, Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership

We are sharing this update to provide clarity for the Northfield and Mastrick community about current arrangements for access to primary care services and our future plans including the status of the earlier proposal to develop a health centre at Greenferns.

We understand the expectation within the community and the frustration with lack of progress regarding local access and the development of new primary care facilities to serve the locality.

We also recognise that this is not just about buildings or plans. For many people, it is about day-to-day reality, how easy it is to get an appointment, how far you need to travel, and how supported you feel when you need care. Those experiences matter and we want to assure that, although we have seen some significant changes over recent years both in terms of how primary care services are delivered and the capital finance environment that we operate in, this does not change our commitment to the delivery of high quality care services and to improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Northfield and Mastrick.

We will continue to be clear and honest with you and will continue to listen to local concerns and communicate openly as our plans for Northfield and Mastrick develop.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update and for continuing to engage with us.

Laura Skaife-Knight
Chief Executive, NHS Grampian

Fiona Mitchelhill
Chief Officer, Aberdeen City HSCP

Northfield & Mastrick

The community has waited a long time for clearer access to GP services closer to home, and we understand the strength of feeling connected to earlier plans for a health centre at Greenferns. We also recognise how challenging it can be for residents who need to travel outside the area to see a GP.

This update explains what has happened, why decisions have been made, and what happens next.

Background: why Greenferns was proposed

Plans for a primary care facility at Greenferns were developed before the COVID-19 pandemic, when there was an opportunity to improve local access to health services in Northfield and Mastrick through service redesign and a new purpose built facility.

When COVID-19 began, this work was paused so that health services could focus on urgent care, safety, and recovery.

What has changed since then

Since the pandemic, several important changes have taken place:

- The cost of building new health centres has increased significantly
- The way GP services are delivered has changed both locally and across the NHS
- The Scottish Government introduced new arrangements for Infrastructure and Capital planning and subsequently Health Boards were informed that, for the foreseeable future, only those projects previously approved and under construction would proceed.

As a result of these changes, the development of a new health centre on the Greenferns site cannot proceed as originally planned and our plans require to be reviewed in line with the new National guidance on Infrastructure planning.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is Northfield or Mastrick still a priority?

Yes. Northfield and Mastrick remain priority areas within ongoing health and care planning across Aberdeen City.

While the Greenferns proposal cannot proceed now as originally planned, the needs of the community continue to be actively considered as part of wider planning.

Are there plans for a new GP practice or branch in Northfield or Mastrick?

At present, there are no plans to open a new GP practice or a GP branch site in Northfield or Mastrick, although this remains an area for consideration as part of our future planning. For primary care service delivery

Where do people get GP care now?

People living in Northfield and Mastrick are registered with a number of GP practices across Aberdeen, including Calsayseat, Newburn, Elmbank, Links, Westburn, Woodside, Holburn, Rubislaw, Albyn and Hamilton. These practices provide care to patients living in the area, however, the need to travel outside the immediate neighbourhood varies depending on the practice a person is registered with.

We recognise that having to travel outside the neighbourhood to see a GP can be difficult, particularly for people who rely on public transport or who have additional needs. As mentioned above this remains a key focus as we develop future plans for primary care service delivery.

What health services are available locally?

Alongside GP services, a range of health and care services continue to be delivered locally, including:

- Community Treatment and Care Services (CTAC), such as blood tests, blood pressure checks, ECGs and wound care
- Midwifery appointments
- Specialist substance use Community Mental Health Nurse services
- Health visiting
- Podiatry
- Dental and other AHP services

We recognise that these services do not replace GP appointments, but they do help many people receive care closer to home.

What is being done to plan for the future?

In November 2025, Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership held a workshop to look at how primary care services and buildings may need to develop over the next 20 years. This work identified a community hub with co-located services in Northfield as a possible medium-term priority, if funding becomes available.

Will the community be kept informed?

Yes. We understand that trust depends on clear and honest communication.

We are committed to:

- keeping the community updated as planning work progresses
- explaining decisions clearly and in plain language
- making sure information is consistent and easy to understand

Our commitment

NHS Grampian and Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership remain committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of people in Northfield and Mastrick.

We know this is not the outcome many people hoped for, and we recognise how painful and frustrating this will feel for some residents. We will continue to listen, to plan carefully, and to communicate openly and honestly.