

Weekend Same-Day GP Appointments

Purpose

To provide clarification to the County Health and Scrutiny Committee regarding recent communications about the future of same-day evening and weekend GP appointments at St Luke's Hospital in Market Harborough, and to set out the position of NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICB.

Background

From 1 April 2026, a new model for providing evening, weekend and bank holiday same-day GP appointments will be introduced across Leicestershire. This follows a competitive procurement process and aims to ensure:

- More locations across the county offer these appointments.
- More consistent opening hours.
- A single operating model across Leicestershire, aligned with national requirements for Enhanced Access.

The new model replaces the Urgent Care GP Service previously delivered from St Luke's Hospital. However, St Luke's continues as a site providing bookable same-day GP appointments.

Clarification Regarding St Luke's

During mobilisation, one of the GP federations proposed an alternative configuration that would have altered the pattern of extended access at St Luke's.

It is important to clarify the following:

- This suggestion was a proposal from a provider, not an agreed change.
- The ICB did not accept the proposal.
- The final model retains evening and weekend same-day GP appointments at St Luke's, exactly as communicated:

Mon–Fri: 6.30pm–8.30pm

Sat: 9am–5pm

Sun: 10am–2pm

Therefore, the clarification issued publicly does not represent a reversal of a decision or a change in policy.

It reflects that normal mobilisation discussions took place and the ICB made clear that services at St Luke's must remain in line with the agreed specification.

Minor Injury Unit

The Minor Injury Unit at St Luke's is completely unaffected.

It continues to operate as it does now with no changes.

Engagement with Local Communities

An engagement programme will begin in the coming weeks to:

Inform patients about the new model.

Invite feedback on accessibility and experience during the transition.

We will now also make sure local communities are aware that St Luke's remains a site for bookable appointments.

Providers

Four GP federations have been awarded contracts and are working with local practices to mobilise services.

This includes ensuring continuity at St Luke's, which forms part of the agreed delivery network.

Next steps

Over the coming weeks we will begin the engagement and will share with a wide range of stakeholders the update on GP services and work with partners, Healthwatch and voluntary organisations to support getting the messages to people in our communities.