

BRIEFING NOTE

For Elected Representatives

GP OUT OF HOURS UPDATE



PROPOSED CHANGES

Following discussions with local GPs at the Trust's GP Partnership meeting and an equality screening, we have agreed that for the remainder of the summer – beginning 19 July 2021 until the end of August 2021, Belfast Trust's GPOOH service will be consolidated on the Crumlin Road (BELDOC site) after 1pm on Saturdays, Sundays, bank holidays, and from midnight to 8am every night. During this time a GP will be available on the SEBDOC site to assist with patients in receipt of palliative care and experiencing mental health emergencies. There are no changes at any other times and at all other times the SEBDOC and BELDOC bases will be fully operational.

These temporary changes will allow Belfast Trust and our GPs to provide a safe, seamless, and accessible service for every person in the greater Belfast area who is in need of a GP as we move from day-time hours to out of hours. Additionally, anyone needing to attend the GPOOH service can do so. Most importantly, an out of hours GP will be available to the public at all times.

We will be holding two virtual briefings for political parties about the temporary arrangements to the GPOOH service on Friday 16 July at 2pm and Monday 19th July at 1pm. If you would like to join either of the briefings please contact nathan.murray@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Further to our briefing note of 9 July 2021 regarding the significant pressure faced by our GP out of ours (GPOOH) service, we want to update you on our plans for this service during the summer months.

You will all be very aware of the significant pressures the Trust's GPOOH has been experiencing over the last two months and Belfast Trust is not alone in this challenge and all other Trusts are in a similar position.

This summer there are more than 30% of gaps in the GP rotas that we are unable to fill. Yet the demand on the service remains extremely high.

Patients requiring the GP Out of Hours service should continue to access it by calling:

BELDOC

02890796220

SEBDOC

02890744447



Those in need of emergency care should immediately call **999** as usual.

