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## West Cumbrian GPs awarded slice of £50 million Prime Minister's Challenge Fund

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### West Cumbrian GPs awarded slice of £50 million Prime Minister's Challenge Fund

Posted on Monday 14th April 2014

Five GP practices in Workington are to receive £511,292 from the Prime Minister's Challenge to provide seven-day-a-week GP services from 8am-8pm with same-day urgent appointments in the town.

Working together with support from NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, the Workington doctors made the application to create a Primary Care Access Centre within Workington Community Hospital as part of a project to redesign and modernise health services within the town to provide more sustainable and higher quality care.

The GPs from James Street Group, Oxford Street, Orchard House, Solway Health Services and Beechwood Group practices believe the new way of working will avoid 100 emergency ambulance journeys, and reduce numbers of people travelling to Whitehaven and Carlisle for A&E attendances. Specialist nursing support for care homes and people with long term conditions such as diabetes will reduce emergency inpatient admissions and admissions to residential care.

NHS Cumbria CCG's Lead GP for Allerdale, Dr Niall McGreevy said: "This is great news for patients in Workington. The five GP practices who serve 33,900 people in Workington and surrounding villages have worked closely together to develop this new way of working to improve access to GP services for patients.

"Each practice has contributed to the development which will see a new Primary Care Access centre open seven days a week, from 8am until 8pm at Workington Community Hospital.

"The centre will offer same-day urgent appointments and minor injuries care. In parallel with this, we will be implementing a new way for improving long term conditions management, working with Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Adult Social Care to integrate community, primary and social care. This will create Cumbria's first Primary Healthcare community and will be a blueprint for the development of this kind of care across Cumbria.

"This funding will enable us to develop a 'one team' approach to care for our patients.

"The CCG is committed to improving the way patients access care in their local communities, and is supporting the development of Primary Care communities, supporting GP practices, community services, social care and the third sector and this funding for Workington will help us develop this pilot to improve services for the people of Workington."

Michael Hutt, Chief Operating Officer for Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust said: "We are really pleased to have been awarded this money. This is a fantastic opportunity for Workington GPs and our Trust to lead the way in using an integrated approach to reduce the burden on accident and emergency units and to enable patients to get the right kind of care quickly."

The Workington project is one of 20 pilots across England to benefit from the Challenge Fund to test new ways of improving access to general practice and innovative approaches to providing primary care services.

#### Additional information about the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund

The Prime Minister announced the launch of the Challenge Fund to improve access to general practice in October 2013. NHS England was asked to lead on the selection and management of the pilot schemes.

The pilots will test a range of options for improving access such as extended hours, weekend opening and better use of technology, and will be selected using the following criteria:

- Public and patient engagement - reflecting the local communities' priorities on accessing primary care.
- Sustainability - ensuring activity continues beyond the pilot phase.
- Scale and ambition - likely to cover populations of at least 40,000 people.
- Leadership and commitment - clear engagement from all the practices involved.
- Link to local strategy - putting general practice at the heart of integrated out-of-hospital care.
- Capacity for rapid implementation - delivering tangible patient benefits during 2014/15 and beyond.
- Plans for monitoring and evaluation - mapped against clear success criteria.

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