

FAO: All Practice Managers

We are writing to let you know about a significant investment programme currently being undertaken by Leeds City Council.

The Leeds Full Fibre Programme is a strategic investment by the Council in full fibre optic broadband infrastructure across the metropolitan district. Part of the 'Leeds as a Digital City' ambition is that they want every building in Leeds to be able to access the best possible connectivity.

The city is working with BT to take full fibre gigabit capable broadband infrastructure to public sector buildings across Leeds (Council buildings, GP surgeries and other health sites and schools). The broadband infrastructure will be used to build out more extensively to homes and businesses in the vicinity of these sites.

The CCG and GP surgeries form a vital part of this strategy. Located within and close to residential communities, taking fibre infrastructure to these locations has the potential to bring those communities into scope for commercial investment by other broadband providers and it is hoped, will dramatically improve the social and economic benefits of these areas.

Over the next few weeks BT Openreach will be looking to start arranging the first installations at GP surgeries. Stuart Thwaites in the CCG IT team will be working with them to help coordinate this work and he will reach out to practice managers across Leeds to arrange for equipment installations. This involves the installation of a small grey box (Optical Network termination point) located near or next to your communications cabinet. Openreach will connect their fibre optic cable to this box ready for any connectivity to be made in the future. The work will not interfere with or impact your communications network in any way and there is no impact to your current HSCN broadband service. It is also important to note that there is no cost to you for this work to take place.

Leeds City Council recognise the huge change that GP practices and other health partners have recently been through following the migration from the old N3 service to the new HSCN network. This new fibre option is part of the future joint ambition of the CCG and Leeds City Council to dramatically improve the position of Leeds and of each local area within the Leeds MD for residents and business alike. The future delivery of high-speed fibre services will eventually replace the HSCN lines and ensure that GP surgeries and other health partners are able to adapt to the growing demand for online services in the future with no need for any further upgrade of their infrastructure.

Any visits by Openreach personnel will follow strict guidance around Covid-secure working practices and this will be discussed with you prior to engineers arriving on site.

If you have any questions about the Leeds Full Fibre Programme or the equipment installation please contact [leedsccg.gpit@nhs.net](mailto:leedsccg.gpit@nhs.net)

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