



Royal College of
General Practitioners

Stour Surgery Achieves Quality Practice Award as Senior Partner retires after 25 years

Staff from Stour Surgery in Christchurch have received a prestigious award from the Royal College of General Practitioners this week for the second time, in recognition of excellence in caring for their staff and patients. There have only been two practices to achieve the award in Dorset and Stour is the only practice in the area to have achieved the award for the second time.

GP practices volunteer to undertake the Quality Practice Award which entails vigorous monitoring of submitted evidence as well as an intense visit assessment at the Surgery, involving interviews with administrative and nursing staff, doctors and patients, looking at services offered, systems and procedures, staff training and feedback from patient surveys and practice innovations.. The assessors are particularly interested in those surgeries that 'go the extra mile' and are innovative in making their service not only accessible but inclusive.

The award is a particular achievement for Dr Graham Archard who retires from the Partnership this week after twenty five years as partner at Stour Surgery.

"I am delighted that the Surgery has won this award for the second time as it is an indictment on the doctors and the staff who are all involved with trying to improve quality in our Practice – I have been fortunate to have worked with such supportive and high quality colleagues over the years I have been here.

Dr Ken McLean, co-chair of the RCGP Quality Practice Award echoes these sentiments.

"Undoubtedly achieving QPA is a significant challenge to a practice and this is doubly so when a practice completes it for a second time after a period of five years. The patients at the Stour Surgery have therefore been lucky to have been provided with the highest level of general practice care over a sustained period of time."

Dr Archard continues... "I have had a most wonderfully enjoyable and rewarding career here in Christchurch and I still remember the first day that I held a surgery over in Kenilworth Court where our original two roomed surgery was placed. Some have even stayed the course and are still registered after all this time! I have made numerous close friends amongst the patients who have trusted me with their care and I shall miss them more than you can believe. I shall continue my work as an expert advisor to the General Medical Council in assessing potentially underperforming General Practitioners. I shall pass the torch on to my very worthy partners and also to our new partner, Dr Karen Jenkinson. "

The Stour Surgery will shortly be presented with a plaque by the College .