

Bennfield Surgery Patient Participation Group
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2024 at Bennfield Surgery

1. Welcomes and Apologies for Absence

Present

George Baxter, Liz Evans, Steve Hall, Cathy Heatley, Martin Saxby, Eric Wood,
Bennfield - Dan Cleminson, Dr. Chris Williams

Apologies

Terry Bell, Danuta Freeman,

Action: Chairman to contact non-attendees without apology to determine ongoing participation or otherwise

2. To Approve Notes of meeting held on 9 July 2024

The circulated minutes of our previous meeting were unanimously approved

3. Matters Arising

4 - PPG & PCN – to be considered under Item 4

8 - Newsletter – the decision to include information about the “third-party consent form” had not been included in the latest edition but would be in the next one.

Action: Dan with Sarah Ludford

- It was noted that the latest newsletter was available on the website but patients had not been notified by text. It was agreed this would be rectified.

Action: Dan

8 – expanding the PPG – Martin shared some possibilities. The question of the timing of the PPG meetings was addressed. Could we achieve greater engagement with the PPG by holding the meeting in the evenings, say at 6-6.30pm?

Action: To be considered early next year.

4. Chairman’s Update – Martin

Networking PPG Chairs

Martin attended a meeting of representatives of groups in S. Warwickshire. This was a very positive meeting, where various groups including ICB and Healthwatch were well represented. The question was raised of whether Rugby could go some way towards replicating such a meeting. After Martin & Eric met with Rugby Borough Council Leader (Cllr Michael Moran) Martin had met with Cllr Maggie O’Rourke and also with the Rugby Health & Care Improvement Forum.

Cllr. Maggie O’Rourke wants to create a Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board to enable better conversations / representation to take place where health and wellbeing issues are involved which Martin may be invited onto. Martin has been invited to join the RHCIF.

Maggie and Martin are convening a meeting at the end of January for PPG chairs from Rugby PCN.

Action: Martin take forward and remain involved

Hoskyn Ward

The situation re the closure of Hoskyn Ward at St Cross was raised. There have been ‘demonstrations’ and other representations made to/by our MP over this relatively unexpected situation.

It was felt that the communication surrounding the Hoskyn Ward closure has been ‘disastrous’, although there is some constructive information available if one ‘knows where to look’.

Martin had written in the recent surgery newsletter reads:

A concern we have had has been about the unaccountability of the ICB (The Integrated Care Board), that has overall responsibility for the provision of health care in Rugby. We are trying to work with other practices and PPGs in Rugby to improve

this state of affairs and to create a forum in which the ICB can hear the voice of patients in Rugby.

In line with this, there was some discussion concerning access to / availability of urgent, doctor led care localised in Rugby. This kind of service is non-existent at present and the question was raised as to whether such a service is 'on the cards'. There is no answer to this question at present so it was asked whether there is a way for the expanding population of Rugby to express their felt needs / views to the relevant Commissioners.

Action: Martin to liaise with other stakeholders

5. Doctor's Update – Dr Williams

There have been no significant changes in processes and structures.

There has been a period of relative instability in the practice for a number of valid reasons but this seems to be coming to a conclusion.

Dr. White is back and in place which is having a positive effect within the Practice.

A new Practice Nurse has been appointed (Nurse Charlie). Charlie has worked in acute hospital settings, mainly in Gastroenterology. She also works part time in secure services and has a special interest in diabetic management.

With respect to the availability of doctor consultations, if a patient rings and declares that they consider their need to be 'urgent' it was stated that a telephone or face to face appointment would be made that day.

6. Practice Update – Dan

The Budget impact on the Practice will be significant with GP Practices being treated differently to other arms of the NHS. It is thought that there will be around a £20k impact on this practice. This may change – but only time will tell.

Jane has now left the Practice because for family issues.

The question was raised as to whether it was better for patients to obtain vaccinations through Pharmacies or other routes rather than through the surgery. The best route for the Practice is that vaccinations should be administered through the Surgery, since vaccines are bought in according to the number of patients on the books and benefits the practice finances. Any unused vaccines will have already been bought in and so unused vaccines will be a waste of vaccines and funds.

The take-up of Covid vaccinations is down on previous years but Flu and RSV programmes are being taken up well.

7. Patient's Issues

Eric – RSV Injection Programme. See Item 6.

8. Any Urgent Business

Apart from reference to the closure of Hoskyn Ward (previously discussed in item 4) there was no urgent business.

9. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

After conferring with Dr Williams, the date of our next meeting has been fixed for:

Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 4.00pm at Bennfield Surgery

Signed: Martin Saxby 13 May 2025