

Minutes of the PPG Meeting held at Whitehall Medical Practice on 2nd April, 2025

Present:- Janet Hurrell (JH) Chair, Barbara Coleman (BC), Russell Hunter (RH), Mary Kington (MK), Sara Marles (SM), Roy Marchant (Dr RM), Hiten Vaidya (HV) Susanne Baker (SB), Rachel Millward (RM)

Apologies:- David Hunter

Minutes from the last meeting were acknowledged.

Practice news

Staffing changes include two new receptionists, Izzie and Nishna

Covid spring booster jabs are due to start for the over 25s and vulnerable people. WMP is storing vaccines to be given out to pharmacies and other surgeries. Carehome residents and homebound patients to be vaccinated. Appointments have been offered to have vaccinations at the surgery.

N.H.S. England

JH asked Dr RM about the impact of the abolishment of NHS England on the surgery. Dr RM said this had been set up by David Cameron and he didn't expect much impact when it is abolished and maybe another body would be set up to replace it. A new contract for doctors will be set up by the government by 2029. There was a move to on line access, but WMP already do this, although some practices don't. It's a case of wait and see, the work still has to be done.

RH had heard that hubs are to be set up by QCC to free doctors from some tasks vaccinations in care homes.

Services at St Cross

JH said there are rumours of services coming back to St Cross which would include 4 new theatres, 2x24 bed wards and 12 recovery bays. This will allow for keyhole abdominal surgery, spinal surgery, in patient gynaecology, hip and knee replacements and breast surgery. Waiting times should be reduced and a new staff car park is planned.

Dr RM said that many outpatients' appointments are now in Rugby and many people prefer to wait to have appointments in Rugby, but he didn't foresee a new A&E. There was a discussion about car parking. RH said that St Cross is part off a group of hospitals and we do have an A&E, but it is in Coventry.

Rugby PPG Network, Recruitment and Support Group

JH had been to a meeting of Rugby PPG chairs. Martin Saxby has been keen to gather all chairs together so they can work with common aims. This already happens in South Warwickshire. The second meeting of the group was held on 14th March when every surgery except for Brownsover, who expect to be involved at the next meeting to be held in May. Councillor Maggie O'Rourke is keen to be involved, she is an ex NHS worker. Some of the concerns by local people which will be addressed are St Cross closures and lack of referrals. HV said he would like to be involved with the next meeting. JH thinks that this will become an efficient, well run body ably chaired by Martin

JH said that all PPGs have the same problem getting younger members to join, mostly the groups are retired or older people. MK had spoken to patients attending the flu injection clinic at which she had helped. Two people had expressed interest but neither had responded to JH's messages. SM said information about PPG ism now on the practice website and there are now around 20K patients. JH had heard that some rural practicers only have around 4K patients.

JH will send information about the next meeting to all PPG members.

Next Meeting to be arranged by JH and SM around July time.

A.O.B.

SB had noticed some discrepancies in her medical records on the NHS app. SM advised her to contact the surgery.

RH noticed that the price of vaccines had increased.

JH said reviews on the practice were either brilliant or bad. SM told us that they contact people to try to put problems right and they either deny writing the review or don't expect to be contacted.

SB asked if the practice asked them to retract bad reviews. SM said sometimes they do retract, other times they stay.

HT asked about number of partners - 5 and two trainees (this had been reduced from 7 as the workload was too great). The team also included Physician assistants, a paramedic and practice nurses. Dr RM said that they have a good team, although there are inevitable changes of staff.