

Minutes for **Joint** PPG/PCN meeting
Tuesday 17th May– 6:30pm
Northway Surgery

Present

Ella Thompson
Cicely Thomas
Russell Gardener
Steve Pritchard
Karen Evans
Anne Wakefield
Ian Campbell
Wendy Rigby
Helen Codd
Yvonne Norton
Peter Norton
David Gill
Chris Bate
Hitesh Patel – PCN Lead Pharmacist

Apologies

Barbara Bryan
Rosemary Bennett
Carol Gregory
Nola Hoggard
Cllr. Adam Aston
Melvyn Roberts

Minutes taken by Ashleigh Dodd

The meeting started by attendances introducing themselves and the surgery they had come to represent.

Community Pharmacist – Hitesh Patel

A presentation was shown by Hitesh Patel, PCN Pharmacist, outlining the new Community Pharmacist Consultation Service where minor illnesses can be referred to local pharmacists through GP surgeries/111 to save GP appointments. Hitesh told the team that this service is happening around the country not just within Dudley and has been active since March 2022. This service is where minor ailments such as hay fever could be dealt with by a Community Pharmacist instead of using GP appointments, which will ultimately relieve pressure on the NHS. All receptionists have been given appropriate training to use the referral pathway. The presentation detailed many things such as signposting, feedback loop, referral route and the current performances within the area.

All pros and cons were discussed, and Hitesh answered questions regarding how patients can get their medication and how the referral process works.

Hitesh said the PPG could get involved by helping to promote the new service and to help build the trust between patients and pharmacists. They could help educate patients and raise awareness.

It was suggested, resources could go on TV screens in GP waiting rooms and could be promoted on surgery websites. Pharmacies could give out leaflets/have posters up. Karen mentioned the local library to dispatch leaflets.

Hitesh to send the presentation to Ella. Powerpoint presentation available

Steve Pritchard

Dr Pritchard welcomed and thanked everyone who had attended the meeting. He noted that the current PCN is highly functioning and going very well at the moment. All practices within the PCN are doing well and examples were given such as the flu/vaccine programme.

Covid has played a massive part in the PPG's not being able to get together and it would be nice to get this running again.

He mentioned at the moment, the PCN has an effective team of care-coordinators responsible for the vaccine rollout, who will also be carrying out health checks within each surgery. There are also Physician's Associates who have around 300/400 appointments a week for different surgeries who can deal with things such as infections. The money within the PCN also helps to pay for things such as a Physiotherapist, Integrated Care and Pharmacists, all of which the surgeries within the PCN can use.

Dr Pritchard expressed his support for holding joint PPG meetings in the future and will be more than happy to facilitate their rooms. It would be an idea to nominate a chair from each practice.

Surveys

Cicely and Ella to go through the next surgery survey and to be discussed at the next Ridgeway PPG meeting.

Future meetings

It was agreed, joint meetings will be held every 3 months to help keep everyone up to date with what is going on within the PCN. Date to be confirmed.

Surgery report

To be discussed at next Ridgeway PPG meeting.

AOB

- Unfortunately, Social Prescriber, Jason will be leaving Integrated + to take up a new post as Chief Officer for Healthwatch. He will still be closely involved in the work of PPGs
- 2 new members from the Greens will be joining the PPG.
- Cicely asked regarding Bereavement Group to be help at the Northway as more rooms available. To speak to Practice Manager.