

The Grove Patient Participation Group

Sherborne

Minutes

28th.April 2025
6:00pm

Present: Dr Sally Dangerfield **(SD)** (Part time); Annabelle Crabb **(AC)**; Jenny Davis **(JD)**; Gill Foott (Engagement and Communications Coordinator [PPGs]) **(GF)**; Carol Foster **(CF)**; Sara Garside **(SG)**; Alex Kimber (Managing Partner) **(AK)**; Roger Marsh (Chair) **(RM)**; Vicky Morland (Social Prescriber) **(VM)**; Sue Ripley **(SR)**; Jill Warburton **(JW)**; and (Sherborne Girls – student Lou Lou).

1. Introductions:

The Chair **(RM)** welcomed everyone to the meeting, Sue Ripley and Jill Warburton from the Apples PPG were especially welcomed.

2. Apologies: David Bartle (Vice Chair) **(DB)**; Tony Bishop (Apples PPG) **(TB)**; Cecelia Handel **(CH)**; Jane Heard (Yetminster PPG) **(JH)**; John Williams **(JW1)**; Val Woolmington **(VW)**; and Sherborne Girls Students

3. Practice Update:

(AK) reported that the new Practice website was going live on the 12th.May.

Regarding Practice staff, a new Patient Services Advisor was starting at the beginning of May and the new Advanced Nurse Practitioner from the Shetlands (Scotland), who is starting in July has visited the Practice. Dr Berry is returning to the Practice in August. As had already been published in the latest edition of the newsletter, Dr Charlie Middle is stepping back from the Practice in July. Although Dr Middle will not be holding a patient list, he will still be attending the practice to conduct minor operations.

Regarding the Covid vaccination clinic held on the 10th.April, 3006 patients were vaccinated out of 4621 who were eligible for a vaccination. Although the numbers vaccinated had dropped, the Grove medical Centre were had the highest percentage of eligible patient vaccinated across all Practices in Dorset.

(AK) stated that the position regarding 'Did Not Attend' DNAs appeared to be improving. In March there were 191 missed appointments and in April, although the number was slightly higher with 193 missed appointments, 50 were those associated with the Covid clinic. The Care Co-ordinators are now using the DNA probability report that identifies those patients who are likely to miss an appointment and they have been contacting them directly.

Health Related Talk:

Dr Sally Dangerfield reflected on her trip to Klosters, Switzerland following selection as the Doctor – Medical Lead for the Military Veterans Charity called 'Supporting Wounded Veterans'. The group took 17 medically discharged wounded veterans skiing to bring them back into a military community with a 'can do' attitude. Some of the veterans had terminal health conditions, others had PTSD, and others had difficulty walking with crutches. The charity will mentor veterans for a year minimum to encourage them to keep moving forward and progress in finding employment. It helps them come off of drugs and it also runs a pain clinic. The members of the PPG were really amazed having heard first hand from **(SD)** of her week-long experience of working with the charity.

4. NHS Dorset - Engagement & Communications (PPGs)

(GF) stated that following the reorganisation of the NHS announce by the Government, locally along with others she was waiting direction from NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board on the future of staffing.

She notified the meeting that PPG Week was being held on the 31st.May until the 7th.June which was an ideal time to set up an event to publicise the work of the PPG etc.

Additionally, she gave details of Carers Week of the 9th. to the 15th.June, and also details of free carers workshops that were taking place.

5. Health Champions:

(VM) reported that the Fibromyalgia Support Group was still functioning well and recently they had discussed concerns regarding the Government's proposals on assessments for health benefit payments. Their concern was such that the group had written a letter on the subject to the local MP.

(VM) went on to say that she was encouraged that two additional leaders had been recruited for the weekly health walks.

6. Military Veterans Support Group:

(RM) reported the group continues to meet on the third Saturday morning of each month. The group has recently seen an increase in new members and it gets many people who live on their own who are regular attendees. Forty people attended the March meeting.

(RM) stated that he was shortly being interviewed by Dr Jill Wells of Northumbria University on how the group operates as she is writing a paper on the subject.

7. PPG Newsletter:

Newsletter No.17 was issued on the 22nd. April and had contained various articles including the retirement of Dr Charlie Middle as its main feature. Additionally, it was pleasing that the newsletter also contained articles written by our own PPG members

8. Actions from the 3rd. March 2025 Meeting:

- i) **Health Related Talk:** Following the talk by Dr Aimee Barnes on the insight into young people's mental health issues, the action to include an article in the Spring edition of the newsletter had been completed.

Action: Closed

In relation to the article (RM) reported that he had received two responses from patient. It was agreed to forward these responses to Dr Aimee Barnes via (AK).

Action: (RM)

- ii) **Practice Website:**

(RM) thanked the members who had taken time to review the new Practice website prior to its issue. He stated that all comments had been forwarded to the Practice for consideration. **Action: Closed**

- iii) **Did Not Attend (DNA):**

Following the report at the previous discussions relating to the excessive number of DNA's, various comments had been received from patients. The comments had now been forwarded to (AK) for review.

Action: Closed

- iv) **Pharmacy First Poster:**

Regarding the publicity of the 'Pharmacy First' campaign. It was agreed that adequate information had been provided to patients on the subject. **Action: Closed**

9. Update from Apples PPG:

(RM) stated that he had attended the last meeting held on the 1st. April and it was noted that the meeting was well attended and was very positive in its actions. It was noted that both (RM) and (JW) were working with new member Tessa Clarke in helping her produce information for newly registered patients at the Apples Medical Centre.

10. PPG Chairs Activities:

(RM) gave the meeting a report on his activities since the last PPG meeting;

12 Mar - Attended Dorset Council meeting on Day Centre Service proposals

13 Mar - Met with the Stroke Team at Dorset County Hospital

15 Mar – Attended Military Veterans Support Group

17 Mar - Gave health report to March meeting of Sherborne Town Council

19 Mar - Attended Group co-ordination meeting of Sherborne Primary School

26 Mar – NHS Dorset Public Engagement meeting

26 Mar - Gave health talk to Gryphon School students

1 Apr - Attended Apples PPG meeting

19 Apr – Attended Military Veterans Support Group
22 Apr - Gave PPG presentation to Sherborne Town Council's Annual Parish Meeting
23 Apr - Attended North Dorset PPG Chairs meeting
23 Apr - Attended a meeting at Castle Gardens on setting up a Men's Shed

11. Any Other Business:

i) T.Meehan – withdrawal from PPG committee

(RM) reported that he had received a message from Tony that he wished to withdraw from the PPG committee due to health reasons. However, he expressed a wish to still be closely involved with the production of the newsletter. (RM) informed the meeting about Tony's long involvement with the Grove PPG, and how along with others, he was instrumental in setting it up. It was agreed that a formal letter of thanks should be sent to Tony on behalf of the PPG. **Action: (RM)**

ii) Report back on talk to Gryphon School students:

(RM) reported on the Health Fair recently held at the Gryphon School. As part of the Fair a talk was given to an audience of 6th.Form students by LiveWell Dorset. (RM) was given the opportunity to address the same audience on health matters relating particularly to the age range of the audience.

iii) Report back on Sherborne Town Council – Annual Parish Meeting:

(RM) reported he had recently attended the Annual Parish Meeting in the Digby Hall, and had given a presentation on the work of the Grove PPG over the past year. The meeting well attended by other local voluntary groups who also gave presentation on their activities.

iv) Report back on Sherborne Men's Shed – Future Developments:

(RM) reported that along with the social prescribing team he had attended a meeting at Castle Gardens on a proposal to set up a Men's Shed in Sherborne. The meeting was organised by Cllr. Guy Patterson to which a representative the Men's Shed Association was invited to speak. Mike Burks (Director and Founder of the Gardens Group) had kindly offered the use of an existing building at castle Gardens as a suitable building from which a Men's Shed could operate. The meeting agreed to form a small steering group to take the project forward. For details about Men's Sheds see: <https://menssheds.org.uk/>

v) Report back on meeting with MYTIME Young Carers - Programme Manager:

(RM) reported that he had recently met with Holly Drinkwater who discussed the work of MYTIME Young Carers and their projects working in schools. Holly explained that she wished to expand the work of the organisation by creating an awareness with local health services. It was agreed to invite Holly to give a talk on the organisation at the next meeting of the Grove PPG. **Action: (RM)**

vi) Report back on meeting with Dorset County Hospital – Stroke Service:

(RM) reported that along with two colleague Chairs of Yeovil-based PPGs he had attended a meeting at Dorset County Hospital to discuss the future provision of their Hyper-acute Stroke Service. A copy of the meeting report is attached to these meeting minutes.

vii) Dementia Friendly Surgery

It was stated that previously there had been a local Dementia Friendly Group within Sherborne, but for lack of support it had floundered. However, when the group existed it promoted 'Dementia Friendly Surgeries' making patient facilities amenable to those patients suffering from dementia. After discussion it was agreed to re-visit the checklist and conduct an up-to-date assessment of the patient area of the Grove Surgery and report on finding to the next PPG meeting. **Action: (JD) and (SG)**

viii) PCN Health Fairs:

The meeting was informed of two upcoming Fairs to be held in the Digby Hall:

16th.May – Healthy Eating Fair 12.00 to 5.00

12th.June – Men's Health Fair

Volunteer were required from members of the PPG at both events.

Action: All to note

ix) Hard of Hearing Group:

(AC) informed her intention to set up a local group for those people who found it hard to hear. She reported that she had details of a similar group in Bournemouth and wished to set up something similar. Various options were discussed by the meeting and it was agreed to make offers of help with both publicity and suggesting a suitable initial meeting place etc. **Action: All to note**

x) Sherborne Area Directory for Health and Care:

(RM) reported that he had recently re-issued the Directory at Issue 9. It was referenced on the Practice websites and also the website of Sherborne Town Council. It had been posted on all the local Facebook Groups and sent by email to 'Virtual' PPG members.

xi) HOPE Group

(JW) notified the meeting that the 'Hope to Overcome Problems Effectively' HOPE Group sessions consisting of 6 Tuesday morning meetings, has been running well. The group is specifically aimed at people suffering from cancer, long-term health conditions etc.

11) Date of next meeting:

MONDAY 9TH. JUNE 2025 ~ 6.00 pm at the Grove Medical Centre

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Agreed Notes of Meeting to discuss development of Hyper-acute Stroke Unit (HASU) at Dorset County Hospital (DCH) - 13 March 2025

Present:

Neil Johnston Deputy Director Stroke Care DCH

Julie Jones Programme Manager Stroke Reconfiguration Somerset Integrated Care Board

Andy Miller Divisional Director Urgent Care DCH

Wendy Longley Consultant Nurse Stroke Unit DCH

Jo Howarth Director of Nursing DCH

Roger Marsh Patient Group Chair

Ray Croissant Patient Group Chair

John Falconer Patient Group Chair

Following introductions, the Patient Group reps emphasised that they were fully supportive of the DCH investment in Emergency Department generally and an expanded Hyper-acute Stroke Unit/Acute Stroke Unit in particular. It is the closure of the Yeovil HASU that the Patient Groups object to because of the probability of poorer outcomes for many patients.

AM gave a presentation of the Investment Programme in ED/ITU at DCH.

The stroke unit currently has 6 HASU beds and 17 ASU beds, with a full complement of clinical staff in support. This will extend to 10 HASU beds and 20 ASU beds when the changes go live in Yeovil.

There was much discussion about workforce numbers and AM confirmed that when recruitment plans are complete, staff numbers will be in accordance with national guidelines. An additional stroke consultant will join the team with a number of other Senior Stroke Specialist roles. The ED consultants will continue to support the first few hours of care when people arrive in hospital with a suspected stroke, alongside the stroke team.

JH confirmed that the stroke beds would be ringfenced and the stroke service is planned to operate fully staffed from 8.00am to 8.00pm when workforce recruitment is complete. Overnight, consultant cover will be on-call but there will be stroke trained Outreach Nurses available on site 24/7.

WL explained that in addition, a new CT scanner, with improved diagnostic capability will be delivered later this year.

The number of stroke patients is expected to rise from around 500 per annum today to in excess of 800 p/a in the coming years. Some of the increase will come from stroke patients who will no longer attend YDH HASU if/when it closes, some from the expanding catchment area from east Dorset, due to the ED in Poole relocating to Bournemouth from late 2025/early 2026 and the remainder from the expected general rise in strokes predicted nationally.

In addition, 400 to 500 stroke mimic patients per year are expected to attend DCH.

Patient travel logistics was discussed at length.

WL confirmed that a meeting is scheduled for 31 March with SWAST, YDH and DCH to commence work on changes required to the stroke pathway for those patients expected from the current YDH catchment area.

Among the issues:

- (i) Patient repatriation to YDH ASU after 72hrs at DCH HASU?
- (ii) Patients who are too unwell to travel after 72hrs?
- (iii) To which hospital will patients be directed who are eligible for thrombectomy?
- (iv) Patients with stroke mimic who do not need to be admitted?
- (v) TIA patients who must be admitted for other conditions. DCH or YDH?
- (vi) Arrangements for patient's family who do not have personal transport?

Although not in the same ISDN, can YDH and DCH increase cooperation on stroke care generally? Discussions to be held later this month.

The Stroke Stakeholders Reference Group was briefly discussed. Patient Group Chairs wish to know, who, from a Dorset practice, attended the SSRG as the Patient representative?

JJ replied that names of the individuals on this group were being withheld. Patient Group Chairs said it was unacceptable that anyone who is representing the views of patients on this group should remain anonymous, and that such secrecy was not in the letter or the spirit of the Secretary of State's instruction that NHS organisations "work closely with patient groups" on this matter.

JJ said she would discuss the issue with colleagues at Somerset ICB.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 15 May at 2.00pm DCH