

The Grove Patient Participation Group

Sherborne

Minutes

9th.June 2025
6:00pm

Present: David Bartle (Vice Chair) **(DB)**; Annabelle Crabb **(AC)**; Jenny Davis **(JD)**; **(GF)**; Sara Garside **(SG)**; Cecelia Handel **(CH)**; Jane Heard (Yetminster PPG) **(JH)**; Paul Heard (Yetminster PPG) **(PH)**; Dr Matt Phelan **(MP)**; Roger Marsh (Chair) **(RM)**; Tony Meehan **(TM)**; Jill Warburton **(JW)**; John Williams **(JW1)**; Val Woolmington **(VW)**; and Sherborne Girls – students Loulou and Imogen).

1. Introductions:

The Chair **(RM)** welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Holly Drinkwater (Community Champion Programme Manager) MYTIME Young Carers.

2. Apologies:

Gill Foott (Engagement and Communications Coordinator [PPGs]) **(GF)**; Carol Foster; Alex Kimber (Managing Partner) **(AK)**; Vicky Morland (Social Prescriber) **(VM)**; and Isla (Student member).

3. Health Related Talk:

Holly Drinkwater addressed the meeting on the work of MYTIME Young Carers. She explained that her initial role was to identify young carers within a school setting. It was known that the 2024 census had identified that across the UK there were just under 54,000 young carers within schools and Dorset had identified the highest number across any county. It was felt that this was attributed to the work performed by MYTIME Young Carers within Dorset.

Holly went on to explain that they have four work programmes:

School Work – Level Up Programme: Essentially training for academic and pastoral staff on how to identify and signpost young carers. The programme is embedded in 258 schools across Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

Making Memories Programme: This is a programme that provides various activities for young carers outside of the home environment.

Community Champion Programme: Delivering training into the community.

Employability Programme: Providing young carers with life skills.

Following general questions from around the table it was agreed that as a PPG we could help by creating a greater awareness through our regular Grove Newsletter. Additionally, our three social subscribers working within the Sherborne Primary Care Network (PCN) would have a greater awareness of the charity and its support work.

It was agreed that we would produce an article for the next edition of the Grove Newsletter by liaising with Holly.

Action: (TM)

For more information on the work of MYTIME Young Carers see: <https://www.mytimeyoungcarers.org/>

4. Practice Update:

(MP) gave the meeting an update regarding staff at the Practice. He said that a new Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) starting with the Practice in early July.

The GPs are finding that they are having to adapt to cater for the pressures they are under at the present time. They have specifically found that they have urgent on the same day patient requirements, and then the longer-term patient conditions to be dealt with by specialist experienced GPs to provide continuity of care. Therefore, it was desirable to have the right GPs looking after the right patients at the right time. An urgent care team is being set up that will deal with the more acute patient problems in a timely fashion and this will free up other GPs to deal with patients who have long-term conditions.

Recruitment is ongoing for a frailty nurse to support Emma, the existing frailty nurse, in her role and therefore expand the role of the frailty team.

Over the past four weeks the reception team have been working on the initial triage of patients by directing to the right areas within the Practice and this has been really beneficial.

The meeting was reminded that Dr Charlie Middle was stepping down as a Partner from the Practice in July, but he will carry on conducting minor operations within the Practice, but will no longer be seeing patients on an everyday basis.

5. NHS Dorset - Engagement & Communications (PPGs)

Apologies had been received from **(GF)** stating that under the present financial situation she had been instructed to stop going to PPG meetings. However, she stated that this was sad as it was one of the parts of her job that she enjoyed the most, getting out and about and engaging with our patient population.

6. Health Champions:

Following the concern by members of the Fibromyalgia Support Group regarding the Government's proposals on assessments for health benefit payments, the group had written a letter on the subject to the local MP. Subsequently, a meeting had been arranged with Ed Morello MP to discuss members concerns.

7. Military Veterans Support Group:

There was no meeting of the group during May due to holidays of the organisers, but the June meeting would be addressed by Terry Canham- Branch Chairman SSAFA Dorset.

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

8. PPG Newsletter:

It was agreed to aim for a July publishing date for the Summer 2025 edition of the Newsletter which would include among other items an article on MYTIME Young Carers. Additionally, it was suggested that an item by the student members of the PPG could be included for which **(TM)** would liaise with Amanda Mackintosh of Sherborne Girls School.

Action: (TM)

9. Actions from the 28th.April 2025 Meeting:

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

- ii) **T.Meehan – withdrawal from PPG committee:** It was agreed that a formal letter of thanks should be sent to Tony on behalf of the PPG.

Action: Closed

- iii) **MYTIME Young Carers:** It was agreed to invite Holly Drinkwater to give a talk on the organisation at the next meeting of the Grove PPG.

Action: Closed

- iv) **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: Closed

Subsequent to the production of the assessment report produced by **(SG)** and **(JD)** it was agreed to forward the report to **(AK)** for review upon her return to work.

Action: (RM)

10. Update from Apples PPG:

(RM) stated that he had attended the last meeting held on the 2nd.June and as a result of the General Practice Improvement Programme (GPIP) a new clinical rota system had been introduced along with improvements being made in the handling of test results and clinical correspondence.

The introduction of a new telephone systems had been welcomed by patients, especially now that they are provided with queueing information.

The Practice website was being updated to clarify the appointment booking system. Regarding workforce, a new part-time Practice Administrator had been recruited and started employment on the 22nd. April. Temporary difficulties have been experienced in both the dispensary and nursing teams with locums having to be hired to cover for short staffing.

11. Update from Yetminster PPG:

(PH) informed the meeting that there was a meeting held at the end of April where the group was informed that the Yetminster Health Centre was starting a regular leg ulcer clinic to be held on Wednesday mornings.

The next PPG meeting was scheduled to take place on the 12th.August.

12. PPG Chairs Activities:

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

8 May – Online meeting with Dr Jill Wales – Northumbria University

8 May – NHS Dorset PEG Meeting discussed the following:

NHSE England Transition & NHS Dorset

Dorset Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly

Dorset Integrated Urgent and Emergency Care

9 May – Met with Jill Warburton & Tessa Clarke (Apples PPG) to discuss new patient leaflet

15 May – Met with the Stroke team at Dorset County Hospital to discuss reorganisation of the stroke service

1 June – Attended Sherborne Abbey service – Mayor's Service

2 June – Attended Apples PPG meeting

4 June – Attended Sherborne Town Council meeting with Magna Housing Association

13. Any Other Business:

i) HOPE training Project:

(JW) gave the meeting an update on the project stating that it was intended to conduct three projects a year, each consisting six one day sessions. It was explained that the subjects for each project were determined by consultation with the GPs on what were major health issues, such as fibromyalgia, long covid and Lyme disease etc. It was planned to hold the next project in October.

It was agreed to prepare an article on the subject for inclusion in the Autumn Newsletter prior to the planned event in October.

Action: (RM), (TM) and (JW) to note.

ii) PCN Health Fairs:

It appeared that the 'Healthy Eating Fair' held on the 16th.May was well attended.

It was also noted that the 'Men's Health Fair' was being held in the Digby Hall on the 12th.June from 2.00pm until 6.00pm and that volunteers were required to help. It was rather disappointing that there was no response from Grove PPG members to help at the forthcoming event. **Action: PPG members**

iii) Meeting with Dorset Council re-Day Opportunities:

(RM) and **(JW)** reported on the fact that a meeting was held between Dorset Council and members of Sherborne Town Council to review and comment on Dorset Council's proposals relating to the existing day care service presently held at the Sherborne Day Centre, the Shielings in the Avenue.

The meeting took place at both The Hayes and the Shielings and various proposals were put forward. However, the original closure date of the 9th.June for consultation had been extended to allow comments from Sherborne Town Council to be formally put forward following the next meeting of the Town Council on the 16th.June.

iv) Meeting between Sherborne Town Council and Magna Housing Association:

(JW) and **(RM)** reported on the latest in a series of meetings with the Housing Association to discuss various issues, most importantly how the Association was dealing with damp and mould in its properties. This was becoming a major health issue to such an extent that the Government is introducing legislation in October to enhance the safety and quality of social housing, primarily through the implementation of Awaab's Law.

Additionally, there is ongoing action to establish a resident's group within Sherborne.

v) RNID Volunteers:

(RM) reported that he had received a request via the Volunteer Centre at Dorchester for help with those in care homes suffering with hearing loss. Information was passed to **(AC)**, and it was also agreed to post the information on local social media groups. **Action: (RM)**

vi) Patient Query regarding the NHS App:

(DB) reported that as requested he had contacted a patient who had difficulties concerning the NHS App. It appeared as though this was associated with outcomes following use of the App. It was agreed that this situation would be monitored for further developments. **Action: (DB) and (RM)**

vii) Visit by Ed Morello MP:

Following a request from **(RM)** to Ed Morello MP to visit the Grove Medical Centre for a discussion on the future of General Practice in Sherborne, especially with the future increase in planned housing, it was agreed that the MP should be contacted to explain that the Managing Partner was out of post until at least the end of July and it would be more appropriate to set up a meeting on her return. **Action: (RM)**

viii) Appointments made via the NHS App.:

(AC) stated that she had been notified of an appointment by the NHS App to see the senior pharmacist, but there was no information regarding the subject of the appointment. Due to hearing loss, she was unable to use the telephone to determine the reason for the appointment and had to visit the surgery to determine the reason. It would have been helpful if the reason for the appointment could have been stated as **(AC)** can only cope with face-to-face appointments because of her disability. It was agreed to review this problem with the Practice. **Action: (AC) and (RM)**

14 Date of next meeting:

MONDAY 28TH. JULY 2025 ~ 6.00 pm at the Grove Medical Centre