

The Grove Patient Participation Group

Sherborne

Minutes

29th.September 2025
6:00pm

Present: David Bartle (Vice Chair) (**DB**); Jenny Davis (**JD**); Karen Gough (**KG**); Jane Heard (Yetminster PPG) (**JH**); Paul Heard (Yetminster PPG) (**PH**); Alex Kimber - Managing Partner (**AK**); Roger Marsh (Chair) (**RM**); Tony Meehan (**TM**); Vicky Morland (**VM**); Sue Ripley (Apples PPG) (**SR**); John Williams (**JW**); and Val Woolmington (**VW**); and (Sherborne Girls – students). Additionally, Alex and Alec.

1. Introductions:

The Chair (**RM**) welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially both Alex and Alec representing the local group of Alcoholics Anonymous.

2. Apologies:

Annabelle Crabb; Gill Foott (Engagement and Communications Coordinator [PPGs]); Carol Foster; and Jill Warburton. It was noted that Sara Garside had tendered her resignation from the group.

3. Alcoholics Anonymous:

The Chair (RM) introduced Alex and Alec, both representing the local group of Alcoholics Anonymous, to the meeting. He explained that in accordance with the decision of the previous PPG meeting it was the wish of the members to gain an insight into the work of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Firstly, Alex explained about Alcoholics Anonymous. She said that it was a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope for each other. Their aim was to share a common problem and to help to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop drinking. The organisation is self-funded through own contributions and it is not allied to any sect or political organisations.

She went on to explain in detail how the organisation functions and this was illustrated with both her and Alec telling their own personal stories.

This was followed by various questions being asked by the PPG members that also made reference to 'Alateen' a specific group for 12 to 17 year-olds.

The general conclusion by the PPG was that they had gained an increased understanding of the work of Alcoholics Anonymous such that they felt more confident in recommending the organisation, should the opportunity arise.

Both Alex and Alec were sincerely thanked for sharing their stories with the group.

Post Meeting Note: Details of 'Alateen' can be found here: <https://al-anonuk.org.uk/alateen/>

4. Practice Update: (Managing Partner)

AK reported that patient demand continues to exceed capacity, with no usual seasonal decline this year. Average GP visits per patient have risen from 5 to 8–9 annually, due to hospital delays and minor ailments that could be self-managed. Dr Adam Wood will leave the Practice at the end of September and will be missed by staff and patients, who sent best wishes via social media. Dr Rob Childs will return mid-October as a locum for six weeks before Dr Chris Pearce joins as a new GP. The Practice is recruiting an Advanced Nurse/Clinical Practitioner and currently employs a locum ANP until the end of November. Additionally, a new clinical pharmacist will be starting in November as a diabetes specialist.

The acute care team is now in place, but sadly some patients are unhappy at having to see an Advanced Nurse Practitioner rather than a GP as part of the team, and some are being quite abusive towards the nurse practitioners which is proving to be quite challenging!!

It was noted that again there has been an increase in patient exhibiting abusive behaviour towards staff. In fact one patient has been struck off the patient list due to threatening behaviour towards staff which has involved the police. Also, pre-warning letters have been sent to three patients concerning their behaviour towards the Practice staff.

5. NHS Dorset - Engagement & Communications (PPGs) (Gill Foott)

Because of uncertainty about her future role due to the Integrated Care Board reorganisation, **(GF)** has been restricted in attending meetings. However, she still produces and distributes items of news applicable to PPGs.

Most recently news of a 3-day course organised by NHS Dorset County Hospital for students who wish to pursue a career in medicine. **(RM)** reported that he had forwarded the details to the local schools.

6. Health Champions

(VM) gave the meeting an update in relation to the Fibromyalgia Support Group. She stated that the group continues to grow with 16 to 18 people attending each meeting with some being new members. The group met with Ed Morello MP to discuss the implications of governments proposed benefit changes. The Bereavement Support Group is winding down due to the advanced age of those running the group. However, a new bereavement group that is organised by Sherborne Abbey has now started to meet in the Almshouses.

The regular Health Walks Group are still in need of additional leaders.

The Chatty Café group is still running well with a regular attendance.

7. Military Veterans Support Group

(RM) reported that the group was visited at its August meeting by Dr Jill Wales of Northumbria University. Dr Wales is in the process of gathering information from similar group across the country to establish the benefits that are offered to military veterans.

Group member Mark Ollis gave an illustrated talk at the September meeting on his volunteer activities, including coastguard, mountain rescue and more recently as a volunteer with the Yeovil Blood Bikes.

8. Apples PPG

(SR) was attending the meeting representing the Apples PPG. She stated that **(DB)** had attended their most recent meeting on behalf of The Grove PPG and she felt that having a representative at each others meeting was helpful in that it provided an insight into the activities of each of our groups within the Sherborne Primary Care Network.

9. Yetminster PPG

(JH) reflected on the fact that they came second in the recent GP Patient Survey, but it was recognised that being a smaller practice that patient satisfaction was expected to be high.

She stated that due to limited space the Practice Manager had recently relinquished his office space to accommodate the primary care network team.

The Yetminster Health Centre would be holding their vaccination clinic in the village hall.

10. Covid/Flu Clinics

(RM) stated that he had sent out an appeal for volunteers at the forthcoming clinics, but as yet the response was rather poor.

11. Diabetes Testing

(RM) questioned the status regarding diabetes testing and it was noted from the Practice Update that with new personnel there would be a concentration on diabetes testing.

He informed the meeting that a website had been launched to support people living in Dorset who may be at risk of developing diabetes.

The site has been developed by NHS Dorset alongside people living with the condition and local partners from the health and care sector to provide information and support for people of all ages who are affected or may be at risk. This includes self-management tools, resources and advice on how to live a healthy lifestyle and reduce individual risk.

In Dorset, more than 52,000 people have been diagnosed with diabetes, representing over 6.3% of the population, with thousands more identified as being at a heightened risk of developing the condition.

The website can be found at www.nhsdorset.nhs.uk/diabetes

It was noted that the Grove Medical Centre had around 700 patients diagnosed with diabetes.

12. Vehicle Parking – The Grove Medical Centre

Following a recent situation where a member of the public had parked their vehicle obstruction the entrance to the medical centre, measures were in hand to investigate changes that could be made to the site entrance.

13. Sherborne Neighbourhood Plan 2026-2043

(RM) reported that he had attended a stakeholder meeting with councillors and Dorset Council, plus Asheigh King – Senior Architect at Pollard Thomas Edwards to have an input in the Dorset Design Code. Previously Dr Chris Minton has agreed that (RM) could represent the PCN regarding healthcare interests.

14. PPG Newsletter

Both (TM) and (RM) reported that the Autumn edition of the Grove Newsletter was nearing completion and it was anticipated that it would be published in early October.

15. Health Inequalities

It was questioned how patient with permanent disabilities were recognised by the Practice. (AK) stated that the patient record of individuals are annotated to identify special needs.

16. Actions from 28th. July 2025 Meeting:

i) Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

(RM) stated that he was on a team involved in the design work around Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) in Dorset. They had their first monthly meeting on 24th.September lead by Becky Aldridge – Chief Executive of Dorset Mental Health Forum and Dr Phil Morgan - Head of Nursing, Therapies and Quality for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Children, Young People and Families

ii) PPG Newsletter:

It was agreed to still publish a suitable article by student PPG members in a future issue.

Action: (TM)

iii) HOPE training Project:

Although it had been agreed to prepare an article on the subject for inclusion in the Autumn Newsletter prior to the planned event in October this still had to be prepared, therefore it was agreed to carry this action forward.

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

iv) Visit by Ed Morello MP:

Following discussion, it was agreed that (AK) would invite Ed Morello MP to visit the Medical Centre to gain a better understanding of the pressures the Practice was working under at present.

Action: (AK)

v) Alcoholics Anonymous – Sherborne Group

The action to invite members of Alcoholics Anonymous to give a presentation at the September PPG meeting had been completed.

Action: Closed

17. Any Other Business:

i) (RM) Informed the meeting that on the 8th.October he would be attending a meeting in Dorchester on 'Transforming Health and Care Together: Working in Partnership'

A multi-agency Transfer of Care Hubs have been set up at Dorset County Hospital and also at University Hospitals Dorset.

He was concerned about out of county hospital discharges where YDH does not have a Transfer of Care Hub and he questioned whether our GPs receive notification from YDH when one of our patients is being discharged?

(AK) stated that usually this does happen, but it was dependent upon the patient's needs upon discharge from hospital.

ii) (RM) informed the student members of the information that was available on the Grove website for those leaving education and moving on to either university or employment.

Details can be found at: <https://practice365.co.uk/uploads/sites/2213/2025/03/health-guide-for-young-people.pdf>

18. Date of next meeting: (Proposed)

Monday 10th. November 2025 6.00PM The Grove Medical Centre