

Minutes of Lepton and Kirkheaton Patient Participation Group – 5th November 2025

Present

Mary McCormack, Barbara Green, Peter Clay, John Gledhill, Anna Roberts, Dr Mani, Dr Priti Patel, Jill Robson, Maggie Lowe, Jennifer Spencer, Joanne Whiteley

Apologies

Christine Beech, Janet Watson, Annette Day, Marcus Beaumont

1. Surgery Update

The meeting was started by Anna (practice manager) presenting the surgery update.

There have been **no changes to our surgery staffing** since the last meeting; however, there are several **upcoming developments** to share:

Maternity Leave

I (Practice manager – Anna) am currently expecting another baby and will be taking **maternity leave from the end of January 2026**. We are in the process of **recruiting a temporary replacement** to cover my period of absence.

Retirement and New Role Recruitment

Our long-serving **Health Care Assistant, Nicola**, who has been with the practice for over **10 years**, will be **retiring at the end of November**.

We are currently interviewing for a **Nurse Associate** to join the team. This is a relatively new role that will encompass all of Nicola's duties, as well as provide **additional clinical services** such as **wound care and vaccinations**.

Our **practice nurses** are extremely busy, and we anticipate this new position will help **reduce pressure on the nursing appointment system**.

Advanced Nurse Practitioner

We previously worked with **Advanced Nurse Practitioner Simon Marritt**, who was shared across several practices within our Primary Care Network. Simon has now moved on to a **full-time role within a single practice**.

In the interim, Simon's hours are being covered by a **locum**, and we are **actively recruiting** for a permanent replacement.

Vaccination Campaign

Our **seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccination campaign** is well underway. Uptake so far has been **slightly lower than this time last year**, which is likely due to the **stricter eligibility cohorts** set by **NHS England** this season.

Online Consultation Platform

As previously discussed, we currently use the **PATCHS** online consultation system. The **ICB** has now given practices permission to **select their own preferred platform** from **April 2026**.

We are exploring **alternative systems** that will:

- Offer **more comprehensive health questionnaires** to support **remote consultations** where appropriate for the patient
- Help the **reception team triage and prioritise** appointments more effectively, ensuring urgent cases are seen promptly
- Offer **better online booking options**, including our annual long term condition reviews.
- **Automatic patient invites** for recalls, eg. Booster vaccinations, repeat blood tests etc.

Feedback from our **PPG** is invaluable, and we are keen to **involve members in the decision-making process** around the new online consultation platform.

We will provide a **further update in the new year** once we have more information about any proposed changes.

Attendance was much improved since our last meeting and possibly the email reminders a week before helped.

We were joined by Dr Mani and Dr Patel who is working in a trainee GP role.

In an effort to improve attendance at our meetings further our Chair John Gledhill has produced some posters for the two surgeries. Also the practice manager is to approach by email some of our patients.

Extra training is proposed to support the reception staff to assist them in their triage role.

2. Date of next meeting

11th March 2026, 2pm Lepton Surgery