

THORPEWOOD MEDICAL GROUP

Dr R Hampsheir Dr S Ranasinghe Dr K Dawson Dr A Prior Dr V Bellamy

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Meeting, Tuesday 11th February 2025, 12.30pm

MINUTES

1. Welcome:

MH welcomed everyone to the first PPG meeting of 2025 and extended a warm welcome to Sandra W who joined the meeting to get a feel for what the PPG does, with a view to becoming a member.

MH shared the sad news about the recent passing of Tony Turrell and paid tribute to Tony and Jean's contribution to the PPG and surgery over many years. A minute's silence was observed to remember Tony and reflect on his life with the PPG.

MH conveyed a huge thank you on behalf of the PPG to Cat D (Operation Manager) who has taken a step back from the PPG now Karen S (Practice Manager) has taken over. Her commitment and hard work for the PPG and the surgery over the last couple of years has been exceptional and she is always welcome to join in any future PPG meetings.

Patient Members: Mike H, Rob P, Tracey W, Maureen H, Anne J, Cheryl P

TMG (Thorpewood Medical Group) Members: Karen S (Practice Manager) Elizabeth D (Secretary) Joe B (IT Lead)

In Attendance: Sandra W (member visitor)

Apologies: Bob L, Tony P, Rick S

2) Presentation by Tracey Slater: OpCOURAGE.

Op COURAGE is an NHS mental health specialist service designed to help veterans including anyone who was in the reserves, Merchant Navy, and their families in England. This charity was officially launched around a year ago. Although there has not been a lot of press about this charity, the service can help veterans in England who are finding life difficult after leaving the military. Working together with armed forces charities, they can help veterans get the right type of specialist care, support, and treatment for their specific needs. To be able to access this help you must be a resident in England and have served in the UK forces for a full day, be registered with a GP surgery in England and to be able to provide your military number. GP's can refer but also veterans can self-refer through a central hub.

The East of England

Phone: 0300 034 9991

Email: mevs.mhm@nhs.net

Website: [Op COURAGE The East of England](#)

3) Minutes from the meeting of the 18th of December 2024: Accepted as circulated.

4) Matter arising from the minutes:

- a) **(5a) New members – engagement process:** MH requested suggestions on improving the member engagement process ie how people join, induction and orientation.
Action: All / MH
- b) **(5b) PPG Structure:** MH proposed that the PPG consider a portfolio approach to the structuring the PPG going forwards. **I.e.** Individual members to look after separate portfolios eg Recruitment, Communication, Bookcase etc to create opportunities for members of the PPG to be more involved. **Action: ALL**
- c) **(5c) Town Council Presentation:** still ongoing and will be discussed at next meeting.
Action: MH
- d) **(5d) Guest Speakers:** MH invited members of the PPG to put forward suggestions for guest speakers for the year ahead. **Action: All**
- e) **(5e) RSV Criteria update:** JB (IT Lead) confirmed NHS Guidance is for any person between the ages of 75 and their 80 birthdays to be eligible for this vaccination.

5) Meeting Dates for 2025 - Agreed.

- 6) **Performance Pack:** The numbers speak for themselves on how the practice is improving. JB to include FTE figures and to add % to DNA section for future Performance packs.
- 7) **Dussindale Surgery:** Dussindale Surgery is hoping to be reopened around the end of April as a provisional date. At present JB is actioning all IT equipment needed and the decorators are in. The hours that the surgery will be opened is uncertain at present. The type of appointments hoping to be offered are similar to Thorpewood Surgery so pre bookable GP, NP and HCA appointments. More information will be provided in due course. The patients have been informed on our website and on our Facebook page. Reaction has been extremely positive to this news.

8) Any Other Business:

Topics for guest speakers:

- 1- What vaccinations are available to patients.
- 2- Understanding the finances in a GP surgery

Meeting Ended-1.44pm