

Leek & Biddulph Patient Locality Group Meeting

Tuesday 21st January 2025. 1300 hrs.

Via Microsoft teams

Topics Discussed and Action Points

Present: Lesley Roberts. (Chair). Ian Robbins. (Secretary). Mike Cozens. Peter Price. Susan Findlow. Ian Jones. Bas Pickering. Jane Cox. Theresa Parker. Emma Thornes. Lisa Dulson. Holly Potts. Daniel Cunningham. (Teams Admin). Rachel Hurst. Matt Berry. Samantha Brown.

In Attendance: Anna Mather. (Healthwatch.) Emma Ford. (Healthwatch.)

Apologies: Steve Tatton.

During the course of this meeting The Chair, Lesley Roberts, asked for a short period of reflection as we remembered Maggie Matthews and Lesley Savage, both of whom have recently passed away. Maggie and Lesley were, in their times, stalwarts fighting for 'patient representation' in The Moorlands and beyond.

Agenda Item 2. Notes from the last meeting. Held on 19.11. 24 and previously circulated. There were no matters arising.

Agenda Item. 3. Leek Hospital, Minor Injuries Unit.

Latest information shared, mainly anecdotal and unconfirmed.

An item seen in local media suggested that the funding for the long awaited 'Integrated Care Hub' was now in question. Conflicting comments made during a recent visit to the hospital by MP Karen Bradley indicated that the Minor Injuries Unit would remain in place.

Members present confirmed, from their personal observations that the M.I.U. was being well used and appeared to be providing a good service.

ACTION: Lesley Roberts undertook to establish the present position and report back. (See email and attachment circulated - Tuesday 21st January 2025 1 hrs.)

Agenda Item 4. PCN Board updates. (Taken with) Agenda Item. 5. PCN Update.

Chair reported having attended recent Board meetings in November and January (14th). She described them as 'very thorough'.

Lisa Dulson outlined recent efforts to recruit an additional GP under a specific funding stream, which had not been successful. They are exploring other avenues in a desire to take advantage of these monies.

ACTION: Lisa Dulson to update the next meeting. (18.3.25)

Lisa also detailed changes in staffing in the PCN pharmacy and occupational therapy provision, where short term shortages in the former are being managed and in the latter one member of staff has left to work in another NHS role.

Lisa also asked PPG Chairs to consider a recent request from her to attend PPG meetings in order to get to know them and to explain her role with the PCN.

ACTION: PPG Chairs. (As opportunities arise.)

Daniel Cunningham shared on screen the PCN website that he is presently developing and invited comments.

Suggestion made: To consider a sign language facility – although it was recognised that there were cost implications to this.

Agenda Item 6. Moorland PPG collaboration. Bas Pickering reported no recent developments but is to pursue the contacts already made with other PPGs across The Moorlands to see how this can be taken forward.

ACTION: Bas Pickering. (By 18.3.25)

Agenda Item 7. OOH Pharmacy Provision.

Copy of letter circulated with Agenda. Contents discussed in the round.

Suggestion made: To involve Cllr Charlotte Atkins who is The Moorlands representative on The Health and Wellbeing Board. AGREED.

ACTION: Ian Robbins to forward relevant documents/emails to Cllr Atkins. (a.s.a.p.)

Agenda Item 8. Locality Meeting Attendances.

Revised list of attendees now in place. Aim is to ensure representation from all PPGs/Practices and continued engagement with relevant PCN Staff and others.

ACTION: PPG Chairs to update their representation as and when appropriate.

Agenda Item 9. National Association for Patient Participation. (N.A.P.P.).

The Chair reported on her recent engagement with a large N.A.P.P. meeting and as a result questioned the merits of this organisation. It appears to have little to offer to root and branch PPGs. After a general discussion, no conclusions reached.

ACTION: PPG Chairs and their Practice Managers may want to consider their annual registration with N.A.P.P. as there is a cost implication.

Agenda Item 9(a) Updates from PPGs.

(Standing Agenda Item - omitted from published list. ACTION: Secretary to note!)

Biddulph Doctors. (Peter Price). PPG had engaged with a Clinical Governance meeting at their Practice, recommended to all as a way of promoting PPGs internally. PPG had been helping to develop a leaflet for bereaved relatives. They had helped trail an online GP/Patient consultation but outcome not conclusive.

(Susan Findlow). PPG is working on a leaflet for patients to assist with Parkinsons Disease medications

Leek Health Centre. (Mike Cozens). Present focus is on member recruitment with an emphasis on finding new members that better reflect the demographic, especially younger service users. Looking at how to better utilise the E-Membership, online only members, who are 'passive' at the present time. The PPG's Communications Working Group is to be reviewed and strengthened. Unexpected loss of a valued staff member through redundancy is being worked through. She had provided a strong link with the Group. The aim is to ensure that this link continues.

Moorland Medical. (Bas Pickering). One of their members (David Jones) has been approached to become a 'Patients' Voice' for the I.C.B. Outcome of recruitment process awaited. An invitation has been extended to PPG Chairs to their next meeting when Tracey Shewan, The ICB's Director of Corporate Governance, is to provide an update from her last attendance in March 2024. *

ACTION: PPG Chairs. (*10am, 6th February 2025. The Coach House, Leek.)

Park Medical. (Ian Jones). They are benefitting from a new and refreshed membership. Video being planned to promote the PPG. Looking at ways to engage with 'virtual PPGs'. 'The Appointments Triage Booking System' is now bedding and, contrary to early reports, is now providing some benefits to patients.

ACTION: Ian Jones/Lesley Roberts/Ian Robbins – to consider how best to share lessons being learned as Triage System is to become common practice by 2026 at the latest.

Biddulph Valley. No report. (Theresa Parker had been called away from the meeting)

Agenda Item 10. Any Other Business.

Request from Susan Findlow for Bas Pickering to renew is links with Local Radio with a view to again airing matters of interest relating to PPGs and Patients in The Moorlands (and beyond). Supported by The Meeting.

ACTION: Bas Pickering. (Timing commensurate with own commitments.)

The Chair invited Anna Mather, the new Healthwatch Manager, to add any comments as it was her first Locality Group meeting. Anna thanked the Chair for the invitation and said that she found it useful to hear what the Group is discussing.

Time and date of next meeting:

Tuesday 18th March 2025. 1300hrs. Online – 'Teams'.

(See email with online link from Daniel Cunningham, Tuesday 14th January 2025, 1148hrs)