

Leek & Biddulph Patient Locality Group

Notes of meeting held on

20th May 2025.

At The Coach House, Moorland Medical Centre.

Present: Lesley Roberts. (Chair). Ian Robbins. (Secretary). Jane Cox. Holly Potts. Lisa Dulson. Emma Thornes. Ian Jones. Steve Tatton. Bas Pickering. Jo Burgess. Rachel Hurst. Susan Findlow. Peter Price. Jenna Espley (ne' Heath). Daniel Cunningham. (Teams Admin).

Apologies: Bill Armstrong. Theresa Parker. Emma Ford. Mike Cozens.

Topics Discussed and Actions Arising.

Actions from last meeting – 18th March 2025.

Lack of Out of Hours Pharmacy provision – has been drawn to the attention of Cllr Charlotte Atkins who is The District Council's representative on The Staffs Health and Wellbeing Board. Although not re-elected to The County Council in the May elections, Cllr Atkins will continue to pursue this in her role as District Councillor. The Health and Wellbeing Board that need to act on this but their next meeting has been cancelled. **ACTION:** Ian Robbins to monitor progress.

Agenda 3. NHS news – local and national changes.

A short round table discussion established that-

Staffordshire and Shropshire Integrated Care Boards are to amalgamate. No details known as to how this might work.

(See: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/blogs/icb-cuts-what-does-it-mean> - for commentary.)

The Chair of The Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Jacqueline Small, is now also chairing The University Hospital North Midlands NHS Trust.

Cheadle Hospital is now being used for research projects/purposes.

Staffordshire County Council has yet to meet following the radical change in leadership in the May elections. This will lead to delays in decision making at all levels, in particular to health related (NHS) matters.

Agenda 4. Primary Care Network (PCN) update.

Lisa Dulson advised that she was leaving her post as PCN Manager on the 14th July. She is moving to another role in the local NHS. Recruitment for a replacement is under way.

Two GPs are to be recruited by the PCN as a result of some funding restrictions now being lifted. Proposal is for one GP in Biddulph and one in Leek. Certain criteria have to be met so the process may be a slow one.

A third Occupational Therapist is now in place together with a new Pharmacy Technician, bringing the PCN team up to strength again.

Winter Well-being events are now in the early planning stages. Probably for September. **ACTION:** Holly Potts to provide updates, 22nd July.

The next PCN Newsletter is now being drafted. Any suggestions/items to Dan Cunningham as soon as possible please. **ACTION:** ALL.

Agenda 5. Chair's Report – PCN Board Meeting.

Lesley Roberts attended the Board meeting on the 6th May 2025. She continues to be impressed by the level of care and detail that is evident at these Board meetings.

The presence of The PLG Chair provides an opportunity to hear 'A Patient Voice', with The Board actively requesting the same. There was a good example of this during this meeting when Lesley was asked for her comments, from a patient's perspective, on the role out of a chest x-ray pilot being run in Leeds.

Agenda 6. PPGs Information/Best Practice sharing.

Biddulph Doctors. Peter Price and Susan Findlow.

Parkinson's Medication Advice leaflet has been completed and is to go to the Practice Partners prior to distribution. *Any other PPG interested in sharing this, please speak to Susan.*

Due to the loss of funding a bereavement group has been withdrawn. PPG members have decided to take this on. The Town Council has agreed the use of a room free of charge; a poster has been produced. Initial responses have been good. There is a need for this group locally. Susan asked that PCN Social Prescribers be advised. *(See attached Support Group flyer).* **ACTION:** Holly Potts.

GP Dr Soma had attended the meeting and presented two patient information leaflets for comment *before* they would be taken into use. *Engaging with the PPG in this way represents Best Practice and is to be encouraged at other practices.*

The results of blood tests provided in Congleton are now being shared with Biddulph Doctors, previously thought not to have been possible for technical reasons. This is encouraging in view of the new Diagnostic Centre planned for Congleton, which is very accessible for Biddulph residents.

Moorland Medical. Stephen Tatton informed the meeting that improvements to disabled access at this Practice are being completed.

Their Practice Manager has retired and a replacement is being actively sought.

A Text based PPG recruitment drive has proved an initial success, followed up by 'drop-in' sessions for prospective PPG members. They are looking for THREE levels of membership, 'Full'; 'Virtual' (email); 'Volunteer' – or hands on helpers for such as vaccination clinics. This approach may be a useful one for other PPGs to adopt?

ACTION: Stephen Tatton to update the next meeting, 22nd July.

Park Medical. Ian Jones. Emma Thornes.

Following discussions, the layout of their Practice Waiting Room has been altered by turning the seating through 90 degrees. This means that patients entering the room are able to do so discreetly without being 'confronted' by seated patients. *A very simple change that has improved the patient experience.*

The Appointments Triage System is bedding in and is now being extended to follow-up appointments. A reduction in appointments missed (DNAs) is noted. More flexibility is enabling patients to have a greater choice in the timing of appointments, improving the patient experience.

Ian and Emma are happy to share their experiences of the system with other PLG Members.

Agenda 7. Any Other Business.

The Chair placed on record her thanks Lisa Dulson for the unstinting support that Lisa has given to the PLG during her tenure at the PCN. In wishing her well in her new role within the NHS, Lesley said that Lisa will be missed – views echoed from around the meeting table.

Lesley Roberts advised that the free advice on NHS App usage at Leek Library is by appointment. **ACTION:** PPGs seeking to advance NHS App take up, to note.

Bas Pickering informed the meeting that they had been in dialogue with Emma Ford from Healthwatch, with regard to patient engagement at Integrated Care Board level.

After a short discussion it was **AGREED that a meeting would be arranged with Healthwatch –**

Provisional date – Monday 15th September 2025. 11am.

Venue to be identified. **ACTION:** Bas Pickering.

Representation – TWO Members from each PPG. **ACTION:** PPG Chairs to nominate.

Bas Pickering is engaging with Moorland Radio on a monthly basis. Any suggested topics for airing to be passed to Bas please. **ACTION:** All.

Bas Pickering advised the meeting that his efforts to engage with other PPGs across The Moorlands (Alton, Werrington, Waterhouses, Cheadle) are ongoing.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 22ND JULY 2025. 1PM – 3PM.

This will be an online 'Teams' Meeting.

The link to this meeting can be found in the email circulated by Daniel Cunningham, 14th January 2025, 1149 hrs - email expanded view.