

The Grove Patient Participation Group

Sherborne

Minutes

3rd. March 2025
6:00pm

Present: Dr Aimee Barnes (AB) (Part time); David Bartle (Vice Chair) **(DB)**; Tony Bishop (Apples PPG) **(TB)**; Carol Foster **(CF)**; Jenny Davis **(JD)**; Gill Foott (Engagement and Communications Coordinator [PPGs]) **(GF)**; Cecelia Handel **(CH)**; Jane Heard (Yetminster PPG) **(JH)**; Alex Kimber (Managing Partner) **(AK)**; Roger Marsh (Chair) **(RM)**; Tony Meehan **(TM)**; Vicky Morland (Social Prescriber) (VM); John Williams **(JW)**; Val Woolmington **(VW)**; and (Sherborne Girls – students).

1. Introductions:

The Chair **(RM)** welcomed everyone to the meeting, Tony Bishop and Jane Heard (representing their PPGs), and especially Cecelia Handel and Val Woolmington who were attending their first meeting.

2. Apologies: Sarah Garside **(SG)**;

3. Practice Update:

(AK) updated the meeting on the fact that since the introduction of the patient triage system those patients using an online form for appointments had grown from 30% to 55%. This was encouraging, as it had cut down the use of the telephone system etc.

Regarding the position of Advanced Nurse Practitioner, the role now had been filled temporarily until the first week in April with a permanent position being taken up in July.

It was noted that Dr Tham's contract with the Practice was ending and he would be leaving at the end of May. At present, Dr Cleaver was working at the Practice on Thursdays.

The patient services team was losing a member who was leaving at the end of March to further her career.

(AK) stated that she had been approached by the Wessex Local Medical Council to write a paper on how the Practice had established micro-teams of their GPs resulting in improved continuity of care for patients.

Regarding the GP Contract, it was noted that for 2025/26 there had been a financial uplift nationally of 7.8%, but it was unclear at this stage how much, and for what conditions of work, would be flowed down to GP practices.

Finally, **(AK)** stated that covid vaccination clinics would be starting shortly and the Grove would be holding a day clinic at the Digby Hall on the 10th. April for patients over the age of 75 and those who were clinically vulnerable. She requested the help from PPG members and asked that those offering help to contact Vicky Morland by email (vicky.morland@dorsetgp.nhs.uk) or phone 07859 201617.

Health Related Talk: The meeting welcomed Dr Aimee Barnes who gave a talk on the insight into young people's mental health issues. She said that over the last few years there had seen a marked increase in young people presenting with mental health issues. She stated that Ian Bartle – (Executive Head of Sherborne Area Primary Schools) had also discussed with her the similar situation that he had to deal with. This had led to them both working together to form a group involving various agencies that could offer help. Following discussion on the subject the meeting offered to put an article of awareness on the subject in the next edition of the Grove Newsletter.

Action (TM)) and (AB)

4. NHS Dorset - Engagement & Communications (PPGs)

Due to the large amount of business **(GF)** had previously supplied the meeting with a written report on the various activities by the NHS across Dorset (see below). She specifically drew attention to the free health checks that were being conducted at various locations across the county, noting that checks were being conducted at Sherborne Library on the 7th. March.

To support the **NHS 10 Year Plan Prevention strategy** there are lots of NHS Health Check events that are being run in conjunction with LiveWell Dorset and as many people as possible are being encouraged to take up the opportunity. The North Dorset events are noted below:

People aged 40-74 may be entitled to a FREE NHS Health Check.

As one gets older, they are at a higher risk of developing health conditions like high blood pressure, heart disease or Type 2 diabetes. A NHS Health Check can help reduce these risks and make sure one stays healthy. NHS Health Checks are usually carried out at GP surgeries or pharmacies, and one will be told if they are due to have a check. Checks happen every five years and everyone who is eligible will receive an invitation by either text or letter.

LiveWell Dorset is supporting this important work by delivering targeted NHS Health Checks - a new mobile service offering these checks direct to local communities and workplaces, targeting people who are most at risk of developing these health conditions is underway.

(GF) stated that anyone who had been invited for a Health Check by their GP, should accept the invitation and book in at their surgery. If they hadn't been invited and feel that they were eligible, then they should use the following link to find their nearest LiveWell Dorset community Health Check event. [this link to find your nearest LiveWell Dorset community Health Check event.](#)

W/C 3rd March

Friday 7th- Sherborne Library 10-1700

W/C 10th March

Monday 10th- Blandford Library 10-1700

W/C 17th March

Wednesday 19th- Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion, Blandford 9-1600

W/C 24th March

Monday 24th- Gillingham Library 10-1700

Our Dorset – Listening Better survey

NHS Dorset is promoting the Listening Better in Dorset website, which explains how one can influence change through conversation, as well as listing all the ways that NHS Dorset engages with communities.

[Listening better – Change your approach to conversations](#)

It was requested that members take a look at the website and then complete the survey to let their views be known.

[Our Dorset - Listening Better - share your feedback \(Page 1 of 2\)](#)

5. Health Champions:

(VM) reported that the Fibromyalgia Support Group was functioning well and that it was intended to establish a support group for those people with hearing difficulties. She also informed the meeting that use could be made of the new community room available at Sherborne Almshouse.

Regarding the healthy walks, a couple of new volunteer walk leaders had come forward and a training session had to be arranged for them. However, more volunteer leaders were still required.

6. Military Veterans Support Group:

(RM) reported the group continues to meet on the third Saturday morning of each month and several speakers are lined up for the coming months. The group gets many people who live on their own who are regular attendees

7. PPG Newsletter:

Newsletter No.16 was issued on the 31st. January and we have had many good feedback comments.

8. Actions from the 13th. January 2025 Meeting:

i) Practice Website:

(AK) stated that the new Practice website had yet to be implemented to replace the existing website that does not meet at the accessibility requirements. Consequently, the members of the PPG were still requested to view and comment on the website from a patient's point of view once it becomes available.

Action: All PPG Members

ii) Regional Survey on Healthy Blood Pressure:

(RM) asked whether PPG members had completed the survey as requested?

iii) 10 Year Health Plan for England.

(RM) asked whether PPG members had completed the survey as requested?

iv) PPG Newsletter:

(TM) reported that he had received an input from the student members for inclusion in the next Practice Newsletter.

Action: Closed

v) PPG Engagement with Young People

The PCN Digital Lead has now produced health related information on the Practice website that could be used by students moving on into employment or further education. This information contains a QR code such that it can be easily downloaded and it will be promoted at the young person's health fair at The Gryphon School during March.

Action: Closed

vi) 'A View from the Waiting Room' – Future articles:

It was agreed that until the position changed use would be made of some previous articles updated. It was noted that an existing article had now been updated an adapted for the forthcoming newsletter.

Action: Closed

vii) Re-useable insulin pens:

It has been determined that the Practice does prescribe re-useable insulin pens.

Action: Closed

viii) Carers Clinic:

It was established that a Carers Clinic is held at the Grove Medical Centre each month.

Action: Closed

ix) Communicating with patients:

(RM) reported that he had attended a meeting with both Donna and Hayley of the Grove Medical Centre to determine more ways of reaching patients with information. Subsequently, the Grove Medical Centre has established in Instagram account.

Action: All to note

9. a) Update from Apples PPG:

(TB) stated that both the Chair and Vice Chair of the group had resigned. However, at the last meeting there was a willingness that the group should continue. As there was no volunteer to chair the group (TB) agreed to chair the next meeting on a temporary basis. He reported that following the General Practice Improvement Programme that had been undertaken several changes to the Practice had been made regarding the appointment and telephone system etc. It was also agreed that a representative from the Grove PPG would attend future meetings.

b) Update from Yetminster PPG:

(JH) stated that there had been a change of GPs at the Practice with the retirement of the existing GPs. She also stated that the person previously employed by the Practice who was instrumental in leading the PPG had left and her place had been taken by a new incumbent who was having to take on the role and understand the working of the PPG. Additionally, (JH) stated that the Practice was actively looking for new premises due to the restrictive nature of the existing building making expansion difficult.

10. PPG Chairs Activities:

(RM) gave the meeting a report on his activities since the last PPG meeting;

15 Jan: Meeting with NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board Members regarding closure of the Hyper-acute Stroke Unit at Yeovil District Hospital

16 Jan: Attended PCN Staff Meeting – Pharmacy First presentation

18 Jan: Military Veterans Support Group

20 Jan: Community Cuppa – The Rendezvous

20 Jan: Gave health report to Sherborne Town Council Meeting

21 Jan: Meeting with Hayley and Donna at the Grove Medical Centre

22 Jan: Meeting with Sherborne Town Council and Magna Housing Association

23 Jan: Attended Dorset Community Action – Annual Meeting

30 Jan: Our Dorset – Public Engagement Group meeting

12 Feb: Health Workshop – NHS 10-Year Plan

13 Feb: Meeting with Town Council Clerk

17 Feb: Gave health report to Sherborne Town Council Meeting

24 Feb: Meeting with Director of Help and Kindness

26 Feb: North Dorset PPG Chairs meeting

3 Mar: Meeting with Dorset Volunteer Centre

11. Any Other Business:

i) Did Not Attend (DNA):

Following the report at the previous meeting on the excessive number of DNA's, the subject had been posted on Facebook and an email sent to all 'Virtual PPG Members'. Various comments had been received and it was agreed that these would be forwarded to **(AK)** for review. **Action: (RM)**

ii) Report back on NHS 10-year plan Workshop:

Both **(DB)** and **(RM)** had attended a recent workshop held by NHS Dorset at Sturminster Newton where views of those attending on the following:

- The NHS's digital decade: perspectives on the analogue to digital shift
- Beyond the hospital: perspectives on shifting care from hospitals to communities
- Preventing sickness: public perspectives on shifting the focus from treatment to prevention

iii) Report back on meeting with Sherborne Town Council/Magna Housing Association:

(RM) reported on a meeting held on the 22nd. January that was attended by himself, three members of Sherborne Town Council; the Town Clerk; three representatives of the Magna Housing Association; and one resident. This was the third in a series of ongoing meetings with the aim of forging improved links between the councillors, health representatives, residents and Magna Housing Association. Cllr Richard Crabb gave an update on the Dorset Local Plan and Local Neighbourhood Plan, with Magna stating it was planned to provide approximately 6,000 homes across Dorset and this would involve a Needs Assessment of residents for placement.

With the introduction of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams being considered the assistance of the voluntary sector locally with collective coordination was considered important. In addition, it was agreed to work collectively to set up a residents group as this was considered important regarding the requirement for healthy homes.

iv) Sherborne Town Council Letter to Health Minister re: GP Practices future development:

Following a discussion at the January meeting of Sherborne Town Council where **(RM)** raised the situation of the local medical centres being unable to cope with the expected number of additional patients projected from the increased number of houses being discussed as part of the local plan, the councillors wished to send a letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the subject. **(RM)** reported that he had prepared a draft letter and this had been forwarded to the Town Council for consideration with the intention that it would form the basis of a letter to be sent to the Minister from Sherborne Town Council.

v) PPG Chairs report on meeting with Town Clerk:

(RM) reported that he had recently met with the Town Clerk to discuss how Sherborne Town Council could take the lead in co-ordinating the local health-related voluntary sector groups. The Town Clerk was embarking on a 2 year university course - Community Governance Degree in association with De Montfort University. The course had several strands involving Community Governance looking at the way in which people and organisations work together and independently, making decisions for the benefit of a local community. It was agreed to work with the Town Clerk on the subject, as Health and Care will be one of the subjects that he will be working on.

vi) North Dorset Access Wellbeing:

Access Wellbeing offers person-centred support for anyone aged 18 and over, providing early help to prevent concerns from escalating. It ensures that people receive the right support, whether that is for their mental health, or guidance about other things such as finances, work or housing. They will be supported online, and face-to-face at community hubs. At this time, it is believed that the facilities will be in Sherborne Library and the Children's Centre.

vii) PPG Chair report on meeting with Director of Help and Kindness:

(RM) reported on a meeting with Jon Sloper – Director of Help and Kindness recently. Jon confirmed the support of Help and Kindness in any way that is useful in the work with the town/parish councils as well as building the voluntary community sector network in our area. **(RM)** had shared the latest version of local directory for Health and Care with him.

Jon intended to review the directory and determine how Help and Kindness might be able to replicate the contents and structure on their website, so it can be maintained and then downloaded on demand with the most up to date information from the site. They can also work on a maintenance schedule to help to keep the directory up to date.

(RM) reported that he had contacted the local Parish Council Clerks to update him on groups in their areas such that he could do a further update of the Health & Care Directory.

Furthermore, Jon Sloper agreed to keep **(RM)** posted with updates on the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams development across the county.

viii) PPG Chairs report on meeting with Dorset Volunteer Centre

(RM) also reported on a meeting he had held with Vicky Hall from the Dorset Volunteer Centre (DVC). They discussed how DVC could help us locally as they had just been awarded an 18-month contract from Dorset Council to co-ordinate volunteer activities. **(RM)** explain that he had previously met with the Town Clerk and there was a need to co-ordinate the activities of local volunteer groups in relation to health and care within our local community, especially as the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams begin to develop. A visit was being arranged for **(RM)** to visit the headquarters of the DVC in Dorchester to understand what they are co-ordinating in other part of the county.

ix) Blood Tests

(AK) informed the meeting that the transportation of blood samples for analysis still remains unchanged under the existing contract with NHS Dorset.

x) NHS Somerset Hyper-acute Stroke Service:

(RM) reported on a projected meeting with Dorset County Hospital (DCH) on the 13th. March, where he and two PPG Chairs from NHS Somerset were meeting with the following NHS representatives:

Andy Miller – Service Redesign Manager (NHS Dorset)

Neil Johnston – Deputy Divisional Manager DCH

Wendy Longley – Stroke Nurse Consultant DCH

Julie Jones – NHS Somerset Stroke Service Programme Lead

The emphasise would be for the support the development of the Hyper-acute Stroke Unit at DCH, but to also raise the following:

- Does DCH have a plan?
- What geographic area will they cover?
- How many patients are expected to be treated at the HASU, and of those, how many will be former YDH patients?

xi) Dorset & Wilts Fire & Rescue Service:

Following concerns raised at a previous PPG meeting where it was reported that Dorset and Wilts Fire and Rescue Service were considering the rationalization of appliances across the area, it was feared that Sherborne might lose one of its two appliances. **(RM)** was pleased to report to the meeting that following a budget assessment it was decided to retain 2 appliances at the Sherborne Fire Station.

xii) Identification of patients with disabilities:

(RM) questioned how the Practice identified patients with disabilities, such as sight and hearing loss. **(AK)** stated that patients were identified by various symbols on their health record. This information was often obtained from patients during vaccination clinics especially those who were not regular attendees at the surgery.

xiii) Dates for your diary:

- Community Cuppa at Cheap Street Church Hall on the third Monday morning of each month (March 17th, April 28th, 19th May)
- A 'Young Person and Women's Health Fair' at The Gryphon School on Wednesday 26th March at 2.20 pm – Speakers being confirmed. Looking at Mental Health- 'Resilience', Women's Health, Young person's guide to accessing healthcare, Young Carers, Dorset Youth
- Spring Covid Campaign begins from 01 April – clinics at The Digby Hall – dates to be confirmed
- 'Healthy Eating Fair' at The Digby Hall in May -date TBC. Cookery demonstrations, presentations from LiveWell Dorset and Active Dorset. Food Banks will be invited, plus hopefully local supermarkets will support.
- June 12th at The Digby Hall – 'Men's Health Fair' Focussing on men's health, The Repair Café have been invited, new Men's Shed ? Plus hopefully Castle Gardens will promote gardening as a beneficial pastime

xiv) Pharmacy First Poster:

A patient had commented regarding the publicity of the 'Pharmacy First' campaign. It was agreed to check whether there was adequate posters in the waiting rooms.

Action: (AK)

11) Date of next meeting:

PROVISIONALLY: MONDAY 14TH. APRIL 2025 ~ 6.00 pm at the Grove Medical Centre