

Northway Medical Centre
Patient Participation Group
Minutes: Monday 2 December 2024

1	<p>Attendees: Anne Whitham, Harvey Woolf, Lesley Flavell, Paula Nickerson, Peter Hawthorne, Carol Chapple From the practice: Dr Hughes, Ann Gill, Darlene Dorkworth (Admin apprentice). Guest: Joanne Stanley from NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening programme. Apologies:, Russell Gardner (Practice Manager), Dr Pritchard, Tim Jevons, , Yvonne Gittins,</p>
2	<p>Minutes of previous meeting The minutes of the 2 September 2024 meeting were considered and approved. Update on Action points from last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No contributions for a newsletter had been offered to AW. Issue regarding distributing it on the ACCURX system could wait until we actually had a newsletter to distribute.
3.	<p>NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening programme – Joanne Stanley JS explained that an AAA is an enlargement of the main blood vessel in the abdomen. If left untreated it can be fatal. Men are 6 times more likely to get an AAA than women. The screening programme invites men aged 65 to be screened (this is not GP referred). An invitation should come through the post. Anyone over 65 to 77 can self-refer to the programme. The Black country AAA screening programme is based at Russells Hall hospital and covers Walsall, Wolverhampton and Dudley areas. Screening involves an ultrasound scan and results are given on the day. Further action depends on the scan findings: Small AAA – review again in 12 months Medium AAA - review again in 3 months Large AAA – (over 5.5cm) a consultant appointment is made. Note that anything over 6.5cm will result in DVLC taking away a driving licence. Take up of screening is about 82% from invitations. Between 5000 and 5500 men per year are screened in the Black Country. Appointments are now available on Saturday mornings.</p>
4.	<p>GP spotlight – Dr Hughes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The practice is on target with the Dudley Quality Outcomes Framework (Dudley QOF). • Prescribing of antibiotics by the practice is slightly higher than typical. The level is coming down. The reasons are that the practice sees more patients than contracted to do and because it trains doctors, who tend to prescribe more. • The increase in employers’ national insurance next year will affect the practice as it is treated as a business rather than part of the NHS. The BMA is campaigning to amend the proposals. If these go ahead as currently planned this will detrimentally affect the service the practice can provide.
5	<p>Practice matters (written report from Russell Gardner)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing update – Dr Kian Shendi leaves the practice on 3 December. Dr Onubeze joined in November. A new rotation of Dr Amandeep Maan and Dr Kaviarasan Thirusevan will start on 4 December. A new admin apprentice, Darlene Dorkworth, was appointed to the reception team in September. • Vaccinations – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flu vaccinations given from 3 October. Over 65s 1350, under 65s 411. ○ Covid boosters from 3 October – 1334. Covid is not currently causing significant hospitalisations. • Friends & Family – in August there were 326 responses (292 very good, 29 good, 7 neither good nor bad, 2 poor and 3 very poor). In September there were 233 responses (209 very good, 15 good, 3 neither good nor bad, 4 poor and 1 very poor). In October there were 244 responses (202 very good, 30 good, 8 neither good nor bad, 1 poor and 2 very poor). As these responses are anonymous they cannot be followed up. Results have to be submitted to the ICB and PCN monthly.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter hub sessions – at Brierley Hill health & Social centre. These are intended to support appointment pressures at local practices since demand has increased. Patients from this end of the borough are reluctant to access this facility (too far away) so the Northway practice is not seeing any benefit. Dr Hughes advised that the ICB has been asked to look at this and make more equitable provision. • Pharmacy First Scheme – is underutilised at Northway. This is probably due to accessibility to appointments in the practice which is generally better than other practices. • KPIs – these are on-track.
6	Shingles vaccinations – available to patients 70 to 79 years old and to over 50s who are immune suppressed. The incidence of shingles is not increasing. GPs call eligible patients to invite them for vaccination.
7	Digital access to NHS – online requests for repeat prescriptions is increasing.
8	Dudley Health & Wellbeing Bulletins AW reminded people they could sign up with Dudley BC to receive monthly bulletins at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDUDLEYMBC/signup/26294
9	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no AOB
10	<p>Date of meetings for 2025 (all at Northway)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCN/PPG - Tuesday 7 January 2025 – 1.30pm • PPG – Monday 10 March 2pm • PCN/PPG – Tuesday 15 April – 1.30pm • PPG – Monday 19 May 2pm • PCN/PPG – Tuesday 8 July – 1.30pm • PPG – Monday 8 September 2pm • PCN/PPG – Tuesday 7 October – 1.30pm • PPG – Monday December 1 – 2pm • PCN/PPG – Tuesday 6 January 2026 – 1.30pm <p>AW asked the PPG members to note their diaries accordingly.</p>