

**Northway Medical Centre**  
**Patient Participation Group**  
**Minutes: Monday 8 September 2025**

1	<p><b>Attendees:</b>  Anne Whitham, Harvey Woolf, Paula Nickerson  From the practice: Russell Gardner (Practice Manager), Dr Simon Hughes  <b>Apologies:</b> Harvey Woolf, Carol Chapple, Ann Gill</p>
2	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>  The minutes of the 10 March 2025 meeting were considered and approved. Note that the meeting in May was cancelled.</p> <p><b>Update on Action points from last meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in new practice registrations – the number of patients at the Northway is now about 8200. Numbers are increasing about 500 per year. AW said it was reported in the press that a sizeable number of GP practices were closing and asked if this could be having an impact. Dr Hughes said it was more the case that some practices were merging so actual closures were rare. This is particularly the case with single GP practices. RG advised that Bath St is closing this month and some patients will come to Northway.</li> <li>• Ladies Walk – the closure issue is currently with the council. It is complicated by the NHS 10 year plan.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Minutes of PCN meeting 8 July 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation/ talk from Neil Bucktin (Black Country ICB) on 2 matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Changes within the BCICB – costs have to be reduced by 50% so staffing will be reduced by 34%. BCICB will merge with Birmingham &amp; Solihull ICB.</li> <li>○ NHS 10 year plan – this will focus on moving care from hospitals to communities, prevention of illness rather than just treating it when it happens and greater digitisation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Presentation/talk from Joanne Stanley on Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA). Men are invited for screening at 65. They are more than 8 more likely to suffer this than women. However, women (and men who have not been called) can self refer.</li> <li>• Newsletter – contributions of content are requested.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Practice Report – Russell Gardner.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The practice list size is 8200. This is up by 500 on last year.</li> <li>• The practice is on track with the Dudley Quality Outcomes Framework (Dudley QOF) to achieve high 90s% and hopes to reach 98%. This represents a very good effort from the team especially as the number of patients with long term conditions has increased.</li> <li>• Vaccinations – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>RSV</b> – the practice has focused on these ahead of the flu vaccination programme.</li> <li>○ <b>Flu</b> – flu vaccinations will start on 1 October. Fewer long term condition appointments will be done during October to accommodate flu jabs.</li> <li>○ <b>Covid</b> – boosters are more targeted this year. They will be available to patients over 75 and those who are immune suppressed. Where possible covid and flu jabs will be done at the same time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Staffing</b> – The practice presently has 4 registrars. Darcy Shotton is providing maternity cover.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Impact on the practice of the NHS 10 year plan</b>  At the moment there are no changes to the practice. Contracts will be entered into for local hubs to deliver more care locally. Dudley is already doing a lot.  More is happening re co-operation between hospitals. Sandwell has a new hospital. It will be the hub for elective (planned) care for Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust and Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust. It will carry out routine procedures for general surgery, orthopaedics and gynaecology.</p>

	Things are becoming more specialised and patients will have to travel further.
6	<p><b>Notices in Northway reception –</b></p> <p>It was noted that these were not always up to date. Lesley kindly offered to come in periodically to update and tidy them up. RG is happy with this.</p>
7	<p><b>PPG membership / role</b></p> <p>AW advised that Pete Hawthorne had advised AW that he has moved out of area and therefore cannot continue with PPG membership. Members must be patients of the practice. Numbers within the PPG are low and action is needed to boost membership.</p> <p>Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices within reception. There need to be more than one so they are clearly visible from wherever someone sits. RG offered to draft a notice for consideration.</li> <li>• Including PPG info on the TV screen – RG will investigate this. Content is done centrally.</li> </ul> <p>AW invited someone else to be chair.</p> <p>Each practice is required to have a PPG. PN asked what the purpose was as we as a PPG don't feel particularly purposeful. Dr Hughes said the purpose is to hold the practice to account.</p> <p>AW asked if it would be possible to add a message to texts sent to patients reminding them /calling them to appointments (ie PPG is not the sole point of the text) to promote the PPG and point patients to look at the website for information.</p>
8	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no AOB</li> </ul>
9	<p>Date of meetings for 2025 (all at Northway)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCN/PPG – Tuesday 7 October – 1.30pm</li> <li>• PPG – Monday December 1 – 2pm</li> <li>• PCN/PPG – Tuesday 6 January 2026 – 1.30pm</li> </ul> <p>AW asked the PPG members to note their diaries accordingly.</p>