



**MINUTES OF THE WALNUT TREE PPG MEETING HELD AT WTHC ON
THE 1st APRIL 2025 @ 11 a.m .**

Attendees	Anne Burkle (APB) : Anne Baggott (AMB) Ian McColl (IM): Jacqui Theobald (JT): Sabrina Kan (SK) Stephanie Warren (SW): Mary McMahon (MM): Marion Stevenson- Hoare (MS)	
Apologies	Hiteshree Nathwani: Dhanraji Singh : Mary Charlewood Counsellor Russell O’Brien: Jean Robertson : Dilip Nathwani:	
New Members	Stephen Riggs (SR) Brian Maxwell (BM)	
Chairperson	Janet Smith (JS)	
Practice Representatives	Clare Briars(CB) Kylie Jordan (KJ)	

1. Welcome and apologies

JS welcomed all present to the meeting – Dhanraji Singh, Mary Charlewood, Jean Robertson, Counsellor O’Brien and Hiteshree Nathwani had sent apologies. JS introduced and welcomed Brian Maxwell and Stephen Riggs as new members.

2. Matters arising from the previous meeting

None arising and thus the minutes taken as a true reflection.

3. Report from the surgery.

CB reported that the surgery would be offering the Spring Covid vaccinations from the 14th April. Patients over the age of 75 and patients with compromised immune systems would be contacted shortly. The programme would be included in the normal clinical hours rather than on a specific day.

Two new trainee GPs were now at the surgery – namely Dr Faherty an F2 and Dr Baskaralingham an ST2. Dr Baskaralingham’s placement at the surgery will be longer than usual as she undertaking both her ST2 and ST3 training so she will be with us for about 18 months.

BM commented that the practice would benefit from a male GP and JS suggested that patients could specifically request a male GP and would then be referred to see one in the PCN on a Saturday if they are available.

CB reported that that Extended Access Service was now being offered within the PCN group of Apslands and Fishermead surgeries. This would allow Saturday clinics.

Unfortunately they are not able to undertake blood tests at present as there are issues with transporting the samples to the hospital over a weekend but we are hoping this may be resolved in the future. This service would rotate between the PCN practices. Whilst WTHC would be joining in the service later in the year WTHC patients could be referred to one of the other surgeries. Members felt that this would be of great benefit to working patients. AMB asked how this service would be advertised to the patients. CB confirmed that the receptionists would offer this service, and it would be noted on the webpage and Facebook.

Lengthy discussions were held on the DNA numbers. CB reported that the staff had been reviewing the annual blood test appointments which may have been falsely elevating numbers. Annual appointments would only now be made with confirmation from patients.

JS provided CB with the Kingswinford Medical Practice protocol for managing repeat DNA patients. CB confirmed that each DNA was followed closely and letters sent. AMB noted and demonstrated that she had received three reminders from the practice on the day of an appointment. KJ would look into this repetition which should not occur – one reminder on the day of the appointment should be sufficient. IM again requested that research could help further identify repeat DNA offenders. BM requested that the practice actively promote routine tests for prostate cancer amongst the male patients.

4. Coffee / information sessions.

Sadly, Counsellor Russell O'Brien was unable to attend and thus no information was available regarding support from the WCC for information centres at the local market and support for the re-painting of the parking areas.

JS had also been unable to further follow-up the idea of working with Walton High School. CB suggested the practice could have an information table specifically for school students.

JS reported that she had contacted the local nursery school regarding having an open day for young children. The school were enthusiastic but said they would need approval from the parents before progressing.

JS reported that she had tried to attend the Social Provider Exhibition but was unable to find the venue. KJ confirmed that she had heard the venue had changed at the last minute. JS requested that the practice ask the Social Prescribers to make a short presentation to the PPG.

5. PPG Groups future contact.

With the proposed 'scrapping' of NHS England and the possible reduction in staff of the ICB, JS suggested that communication between the various PPGs in the area was now even more important. JS had previously tried to contact various PPGs but often practice receptionists were hesitant to provide personal information. CB was asked to discuss this with other surgeries during one of the regional meetings.

JT asked if there was any news that could be shared regarding the possible expansion of the practice. CB was unable to shed any light at this stage.

SR asked if the surgery offers any group support for cancer patients. Volunteers who had been through the condition could be used to informally support fellow patients.

JT reported that other practices were regularly offering coffee mornings to support those patients impacted. The members thought this a good idea and requested that CB discuss with the partners

6. Walking Group

JS reported that the group continued and as the weather improved numbers were slowly improving. MM reported that she had joined the group recently and the experience had positively improved her wellbeing.

7. Newsletter

Discussions were again held regarding the Summer newsletter. An article on Social Prescribing and the changes in the Extended Access Service was suggested. JS requested assistance to compile the next newsletter.

8. Any Other Business

JS again suggested that every effort be made to engage with other PPGs and attempt to encourage a youthful member to join. Diversity was an important goal for the PPG. New members, SR and BM, commented on the improvements they had experienced over the years which had been installed by the practice to assist patients namely – Engage Consult, and the call back facility which prevented patients waiting for telephone queues.

JS noted the confidentiality documents which needed to be signed by the new members were not available for the meeting, but she would endeavour to ensure they would be provided by the admin staff for the next meeting.

SW reported that the Neighbourhood Watch at Walton was diminishing.

With no further business JS thanked the members who had attended. The next PPG meeting has been scheduled for the 13 May 2025 at 11 am – (this will not have a practice member attending) and the 24th June 2025 at 11 am which will have a practice member attending.

