



**The Brimington Surgery**  
**PPG - NOTES**  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**

**1. Attendees**

George Morris; Sue Hague (Chair); Pam Smiley; Martin Liddle, Joan Graham, Sandra Bridge, Pam Wright, Margaret Breeds, Paula Elliott (Practice Manager), Chelsea Webster (Assistant Practice Manager), Dr Rupert White

**2. Apologies**

Lynda Hewitt; Joan Bramley, Patricia Chambers

Margaret Breeds asked for a correction to the last minutes as her apologies despite being given have not been noted. This has now been corrected.

**3. Area Network Meeting Feedback - (standing item)**

George Morris gave an update of the current situation – various groups, not just the area PPG meeting.

*Chesterfield Network PPG*

*County Network PPG* – Whilst this does look to cover what goes on in Derby City as well as the County, some things are done so differently in a City, that there is sometimes little overlap between their concerns and that of those in the rest of the County.

*Chesterfield Place Alliance* - They meet every 3 months to discuss how things are coordinated. ie covering mental health across different types of organisations e.g. social care/health care etc. The people at that meeting are usually those who are running the organisations and they implement what they have agreed as they are in the position to do this. The Alliance is not a budget holder. They discuss how they may make their interfaces work. It includes organisations such as: Ambulance Service, Secondary Care, Primary Care, Social Care, Mental Health Services. Dr PJ Flann Partner at Inspire Health and the PCN's Clinical Director is the input from Primary Care.

They meet about 1/4ly or so but with an annual special meeting (pre COVID).

<https://joinedupcarederbyshire.co.uk/our-places>

**4. Pt feedback - (standing item)**

Social Media – our FB page.

If you have anything you think might be suitable please let Paula know.

**5. Surgery update – (standing item)**

Staffing – New Salaried GP Dr Nathalie Reborra due to join us in May.

Mandy Rawson has worked at The Brimington Surgery for 20 years!

We are currently interviewing for a Patient Support Team Member.

We have a Nurse on long term sick and one off with COVID.

*Dr Rupert White joined the meeting.*

He explained the pros and cons of being a training practice.

The only downside is the loss of appointments with the GPs as it is time consuming ensuring the trainees are fully supported. The pros considerably outweigh this, having trainees benefits patients and the practice. It gives us new contacts, it is very rewarding, it keeps the practice energy high and offers us up to date information from the new doctors coming into the team.

There are a lot of local training practices (including Newbold, Whittington Moor Calow & Brim, Royal Primary Care, Dronfield, Inspire Health).

There is a falling number of doctors. In 2017 the Government promised 5,000 more GPs but now there are around 700 or 800 fewer. Whilst this is part of the reason for moving towards a multi-disciplined team (i.e., we have a Paramedic, Pharmacist and a Nurse Practitioner) it also helps having a mix of skills so that patients can see someone who best can help them and the team can learn from each other.

How to access appointments was discussed especially regarding the older patients. A member said that some wait on the phone for an hour and was worried that older people might give up? It was agreed that this was a worry. This led to a discussion of what is happening in Primary Care or at least at our practice.

Waiting lists for Secondary Care are very measurable and can show the impact of the pandemic. The impact on Primary Care is much harder to measure. The amount of work we are trying to do has vastly increased and we also remain responsible for those on secondary care waiting lists.

Throughout the pandemic we have always seen patients face to face, but we have screened first.

Audits were presented . The comparison of on call appointments in 2019 with those in 2021 showed an increase despite the practice being a GP short for a large part of the latter year. Out of context it is hard to make a conclusion other than the traffic into the surgery had significantly increased.

January 2022 was also presented and this showed:

available routine and urgent appointments with the GPs, NP and Paramedic = 1,245

GP on call appointments = 1,000

If the Pharmacy team was added the overall total was 2,457 for January alone

Dr White explained that an important part of Primary care is continuity along with a proactive approach to care i.e. planning, a review prior to problems arising for those with more complex needs. However, the impact of COVID has meant that currently Primary care is being pushed to tackle everything as though it was urgent which means we lose the proactive work and end up chasing our tail.

From early in the pandemic, at Brimington we have tried to manage all aspects of the work to try and ensure we don't get so far behind and end up at crisis point and we

believe we have achieved this.

Running with reduced numbers of staff and dealing with the work as though it is urgent is very stressful. It has ended up that a GP on call, in the morning only, may have 40 or 50 patient contacts.

We understand that most who contact the practice have a genuine issue they are worried about, but it is not always appropriate – e.g. calling at 5 to 6 and expect to have issue sorted that day. We have been trying to educate people to not do this.

So we are encouraging people to contact us earlier in the day so we can manage the day's work.

We have returned to one (and not two) GPs on call to increase bookable appointments, so a limit is set in the afternoon of 20 are seen between 2.30 til 6pm. From the 21<sup>st</sup> patient they are informed that they are off the end of the list and if we do not contact them by 6pm to call 111 or call back the following morning however, we usually manage to call them back. Trying to encourage them to contact GP in best way and protect the staff.

## **6. Covid**

Short general discussion was had. General Practice usually hears things at the same time as the general public – on the news!

Infection Rates are high and there is concern in practice regarding the new rules. Patients can attend the practice with covid as there is no testing requirement however, practice staff must test and stay off work if positive. This could mean that staff sickness rates soar and put staffing levels at risk. Infection control guidance states that masks are to be worn in healthcare settings and this will continue to be rigidly enforced to try and reduce staff illness.

## **7. Any other business**

We are keen to investigate electric charging point for car park and Martin Liddle is kindly continuing to look into this. Margaret Breeds informed us that there is a County Councillor who is responsible for these and Dean Collins is the local Councillor who may have more information.

Membership – the PPG still aspire to have some younger members and wondered if, as part of Citizenship studies, if every school could have a rep at their PPG. Other organisations could also be approached – also St John Ambulance Brigade, Red Cross, Scouts, Nursing students at Derby University based in Chesterfield. The PPG thought a mail shot would be good but sadly no one was available to draft a letter for the practice to send. George Morris is to ask the Network Group to see if anyone has younger people on their PPG and then how they recruited.

Greener Practice – Dr Hughes was unable to attend due to workload, but brief information was passed on.

Chelsea Webster confirmed that food vouchers for those eligible are available from reception; currently we don't have food bank collection point except for staff who do this

every November and December; there is a local food bank.

Whilst we recycle our toners, we do not have public toner collection.

Pam Smiley is about to qualify as an accredited Walk Leader for CBC under the new Walking Derbyshire (was Walking for Health). She is going to send a photo of her certificate for the website and Facebook page plus information to publicise the scheme. Paula will pass this to the Social Prescriber.

There is a walking group in Brimington for anyone.

George Morris took a photo of the group and permission was given to use this to publicise the PPG.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: May 18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**

Invite Suzanne Kirkland-Wells Social Prescriber.

# Greener practice:

is a primary care climate and sustainability network. We recognise that the climate and ecological crisis is the leading public health issue of our generation. We aim to raise awareness of the health benefits of climate action and support our primary care community to take practical action towards greener practice.

<https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/>

The Greener Practice group includes GPs, medical students and others working in primary care. We started in 2017 in South Yorkshire and have now grown to become a national network leading the way for GP practices to decarbonise. Other local Greener Practice groups, are being set up in other parts of the country, and we are supporting them in their initiatives, sharing the knowledge and expertise we have gained.

1. **Improves health now** - e.g. Active travel reduces air pollution and provides physical activity related health benefits. Sustainable diets reduce chronic disease. Time in nature through green prescribing has known mental and physical health benefits.
2. **Protects future health** - e.g. through mitigating health threats from the climate crisis such as extreme weather events, heat stress, vector-borne disease, food shortage, air and water quality etc.
3. **Reduces health inequalities** - The climate crisis disproportionately affects the poorest in society and so addressing it reduces this impact. Addressing fuel poverty is an example of where health inequalities and climate change are simultaneously addressed. Another example is through supporting community resilience.
4. **Improves workload and costs** - e.g. through improved patient health, reduced prescribing/procurement costs, reduced energy use.