

**MINUTES OF THE PPG MEETING 10 FEBRUARY 2025**

There were 16 members attending and 2 apologies noted on the attendance sheet.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting on 9 December 2024 were accepted.

**Matters arising**

There were none.

**Practice Managers Report**

Sophie addressed a question from Delia regarding BMI/support for obesity. Sophie explained that a patient with a BMI >30, and >28.5 ethnic, are referred to the Gym and to Slimming World. A higher BMI with diabetes and/or hypertension would indicate referral to Digital Weight Management, and with a BMI even higher, referral to the Obesity Team is recommended. Linzi is the lead. Sophie said that the Surgery had addressed this in the past but unfortunately some people were offended. GPs also target patients in clinic. A Healthy Lifestyle Course has previously been held by Dr Thakrar for two hours on Wednesdays for six weeks. Data analysis at the end of the course showed improvements from baseline in blood pressure and cholesterol, but the course was not recommissioned. It was agreed that obesity was a complex issue and each person has different needs.

Tom informed the meeting that ENPA had information that at a local level 25% of children starting school are classed as obese, and by year six this figure has risen to 35%. There was a general discussion as to whether there is anything that can be done via the Surgery/PPG. Sophie agreed to ask Linzi if there is anything she could do in her role and also said that they would look into a Healthy Eating initiative.

Sophie reported that the phlebotomy service began in January on a first come, first served basis. Patients are asked still to go to Nene Park Outpatients if they can. The length of the queues of patients waiting for the blood test was raised. This is often due to ‘tricky bleeders’ and Sophie said this is being addressed.

Sophie said that DNA’s were high in January and a large number of these were due to missed blood test appointments. If a patient does not attend in future, no further appointments will be booked.

Hector mentioned that ENPA had reports that Anima is causing frustration and is not going down well. Sophie said that she feels we are ‘coming out the other side’. The Surgery are in contact with Anima all the time suggesting ways to improve the system. GPs are consulted every day with regards to how they view the way the triage system is working. Anima does not feedback data and the Surgery do this themselves.

Ishbel suggested a patient survey, and Sophie will look into this.

There was a general discussion on Anima.

**Care Coordinators Report**

Linzi is unwell and unable to attend the meeting. Any queries were addressed in the PM Report above.

Eileen said that she was very impressed to receive a call from Linzi following a recent procedure. The Surgery is now a Cancer Care Champion, and this will be normal practice in the future – sending bereavement cards etc. Everyone agreed Linzi is doing a wonderful job in her role.

**Fund Raising**

Cathy asked if there had been anything further with fund raising for Marie Curie (mentioned by Linzi at the last meeting) and Sophie said that the staff had fund raised over the Christmas period.

It was queried if anyone has ideas for fundraising this year.

Jason said he will have plants (tomatoes and vegetables) ready for May/June time.

Jason also mentioned that he would be willing to take photographs if a room in the Surgery was available for a donation to the Surgery.

Cathy, Ishbel and Anna would liaise with Linzi with ideas for further fundraising events.

**Wheelchair Scales**

This was due to be discussed at a Managers Meeting. Sophie said it wasn’t brought up, but the subject will be discussed again at the next meeting of the Managers. It was proposed (by Bob) and seconded (by Anna) that the PPG would donate £250 towards the cost if the Surgery felt the scales would be a useful addition. Sophie to report back.

**Any other business**

The taking of photographs and storage for guidance at any future fundraisers was raised. There was a general discussion, and it was agreed that Lynne and Annie would update the ‘Consent Form’ for members of the PPG, and this would include a point for members to sign to agree to any photographs taken being on the Surgery Notice Board and/or social media. It was felt that we need to have guidelines in place for photographs of children while attending fundraising events (eg the Santa Event). Jason said that photos from the December 2024 Santa Event were sent to Linzi for parents to request. Annie suggested that we need to ‘safety net’ ourselves for any future events, and how we approach taking photos particularly when children are involved. It was agreed that in future the parents themselves should take photos of their children with Santa on their phones/camera for a donation to the PPG.

Hector said that he had a Community Connector Leaflet, which would be put on to the Surgery Noticeboard. He also handed out some ENPA Annual Review Leaflets.

Bob asked if the markings in the Surgery Car Park would be redone, and Sophie said that this should be done annually by the Landlord, and the front doors also needed some repairs.

Annie said that an updated Northampton Carers Leaflet is available and would be put on the Surgery Noticeboard.

**Dates of Next Meetings for the next year**

Monday 28 April 2025

Monday 23 June 2025

Monday 18 August 2025

Monday 20 October 2025

Monday 8 December 2025

Monday 9 February 2026 (AGM)

**Conclusion**

The Chair thanked the members for attending and indicated that the next meeting would be on **Monday 28 April 2025 at 4.30pm**.

The Meeting closed at 5.42pm