

**East Staffordshire District Patient Engagement Group Minutes  
of the meeting held at the  
Voluntary Services Centre, Union Street, Burton DE14 1AA  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023, between 14.00 and 16.00**

**1. Present:**

Sue Adey-Rankin, SAR	Chair East Staffs District Patient Engagement Group, (Tutbury Patient Forum)
John Bridges, JB	Vice Chair East Staffs District Patient Engagement Group, (Tutbury Patient Forum)
BJW	(Tutbury Patient Forum)
LK	(Peel Croft PPG)
LH	(Peel Croft PPG)
CD	(Trent Meadows PPG)
SMcK	(Trent Meadows PPG) 3.30pm
SG	(Yoxall PPG)
EM	(Alrewas PPG)
DB	Healthwatch, Staffordshire. 2.30pm
KB	(Rocester PPG)
GS	(Balance Street PPG)
IL	Support Staffordshire Community Officer, Burton on Trent District

**2. Apologies.**

KL	(Peel Croft PPG)
LL	(Alrewas PPG)
BP	(Wetmore Road PPG)
RB	(Trent Meadows PPG)
LT	(Carlton Group PPG)
TB	(Yoxall PPG)
JW	(Barton PPG)

### **3. Speakers**

Debbie Melling	Community Manager, Primary Care Network East Staffordshire (All meeting)
Michelle Vodden	Consultancy Development Manager, Support Staffordshire (2.20pm)

### **4. Welcome**

The Chair, SAR, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

SAR informed all members of the recent death of John Jackson, Chair Carlton Group PPG and President of Burton Albion. JJ will be sadly missed by the community, and condolences to his family from the District Group membership.

The group were also informed that Ian Bye and his wife had stood down as officers of the Northgate PPG. As no one else wished to take up the roles the PPG currently is not operating, and all details sent to the Northgate Practice Manager. Thanks had been sent to both on behalf of the district group for the work they had done over many years for Northgate PPG.

### **5. Election of Officers to serve throughout 2023.**

Under section 7 of the District Group Constitution it states that:

- The group will be chaired by a PPG representative, known as the Chair. There also will be an elected Vice Chair and Secretary.
- The above officers will be appointed annually by the group. This normally will take place at the first meeting of the year.

Prior to the meeting the Vice-Chair had forwarded nomination forms to all members for the positions due for election.

The Vice-Chair informed those present that he had only received nominations from the existing officers. The Chair asked if there was anyone else who wished to put themselves forward?

As no one else came forward those present were asked to vote for:

Chair: Susan Adey- Rankin.  
Result: Unanimous Agreement  
Vice-Chair/Secretary: John Bridges,  
Result: Unanimous Agreement

Both the Chair and Vice-Chair thanked everyone for their support and accepted to serve in those positions throughout 2023.

For the records Chris Darby had been asked if he was happy to continue looking after the website. He was happy to do so, and the members agreed, thanking him for the work done throughout 2022.

## **6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th of January 2023**

The Chair, SAR, went through the minutes and asked if there were any amendments? There was one slight amendment which has now been carried out. With no further issues raised the minutes were accepted as a true record.

The Vice-Chair informed everyone that the minutes will now be forwarded to the East Staffordshire Practice Managers. This used to be done via the CCG but following their reforming as the ICS/ICB there had been no one to do this. Going forward the minutes will be sent to the Tutbury Practice Manager who has agreed to forward to all the other East Staffordshire Practice Managers.

## **7. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising that aren't covered by the agenda items.

## **8. Action Log Update**

There were 2 actions from the last meeting and below is an update on each.

### ***i). Elections of District Officers for 2023***

This action has been completed under Agenda item 5 of this meeting and is detailed above.

### ***ii). Speakers.***

It had been suggested that initially we have people to update on social prescribing, current situation at UHDB and the ICB.

Update:

The Chair and Vice Chair had met with Michael Pritchard, Senior Social Prescriber, Burton Albion Community Trust. It was a positive meeting and MP is willing to come and speak to the group. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the newly appointed social prescribers to settle in first and then invite MP to come and give an update on the service they are providing.

The Vice Chair had met with Rachel Gallyot, deputy Medical Director of the Staffs and Stoke on Trent ICB. RG has accepted the invitation to come and speak to the District Group and the dates agreed are as follows: Thursday, June 15th, and Thursday, October 18th.

## **9. Update from Debbie Melling**

The Chair welcomed DM to the meeting who was present to give an update on the Vaccination Centre at Pirelli, the Joy App, and other areas the Primary Care Network is working on.

DM thanked the Chair for both the introduction and invitation to come and speak to everyone. As most people were aware DM used to be the Practice Manager at the Peel Croft Surgery. She then became involved with the COVID vaccination centre at Pirelli leading to accepting the position of East Staffs Primary Care Network Community Manager which meant leaving Peel Croft after many happy years working there.

DM explained that her role is split into 3 parts and these are:

- Vaccination centre work
- Community Development covering social prescribing, enabling

patients being given the tools to help them self-manage their medical conditions.

- Working with other colleagues within the PCN in the area of research development which involved looking at all the opportunities that can be brought in to assist in all aspects of health for East Staffordshire patients.

As regards the vaccination centre the COVID vaccines have been paused from 12<sup>th</sup> February until April time. During this period the opportunity is being taken to carry out remedial work such as

- Improvement in flooring to NHS standards
- New NHS fridges and other equipment for storage of vaccines, and other NHS supplies.

In addition as the UK is now not classed as being in a pandemic the use of the centre for continuation of current and new health opportunities, needs to be recoded and the planning permission for this is currently going through the necessary stages.

The NHS have just confirmed that there will be a Spring campaign of COVID vaccinations. These will be for people aged 75+, the vulnerable, care homes, +5year olds, housebound, and the immunosuppressed. There will also be an Autumn campaign but as yet no further details are known.

In addition, the East Staffs GP surgeries are happy for the centre to carry out the 2023 flu vaccinations. The order for these vaccines have to be placed by the end of February and this year all the vaccines will be delivered direct to Pirelli which will make the job a lot easier for everyone concerned.

It is hoped that through the recoding of the centre, as mentioned above, there will be the opportunities for it to become a health check centre with staff from the vaccination team being upskilled to carry out this work. This will assist in relieving pressure off GPs and DM is waiting for all the necessary indemnities to be put in place before work commences.

CD, (Trent Meadows PPG) asked if Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening, (AAA), would be considered as he knew the service was looking for a base as the 2 surgeries in East Staffordshire did not have the facilities any longer. DM will look into this as this had been raised by the Vice Chair, JB, and contact had been made with the service. JB confirmed this.

CD also mentioned prostate tests for men being an opportunity. Burton Albion in the past had arranged these which were undertaken by Dr Shah. Trent Meadows PPG had in the past run information events for this and over 150 attended.

### ***Research opportunities***

The UK-Early Detection Initiative study is a project aiming of improving detection of pancreatic cancer in high-risk groups. Most cases of new-onset diabetes mellitus are due to lifestyle or genetic factors, but in a small subset of individuals diagnosed with new onset diabetes mellitus, approximately 1 in 100 people, the diagnosis of diabetes is believed to be an early sign associated with the development of pancreatic cancer.

The study will look at ways to distinguish between the forms of diabetes so effective screening programs may be developed to detect pancreatic cancer much earlier and hopefully provide better treatment options for these patients.

Clinical data, quality of life data and biological samples from a large cohort of individuals with new-onset diabetes will be taken to help us try to distinguish between the types of diabetes, identify early signs of pancreatic cancer and determine how cost-effective screening would be if it were possible.

The aim is to recruit patients 50 years of age or older and have been diagnosed with diabetes in the last 6 months. Patients do not have to take part in the study. If a patient chooses to take part in the study they will be asked to attend for blood samples to be taken, one

sample will be processed at the Centre and frozen ready for collection and transportation to the Research Centre in Liverpool. The other sample will be taken to Burton Hospital for processing and results sent back to the patients GP practice to provide them with up to date health information regarding your diabetes.

### ***Social Prescribing***

DM gave details on Burton Albion Community Trust, BACT, now being the provider of this service within East Staffordshire. In January interviews had been held and now there are 7 social prescribers in post covering 5 full time positions. As mentioned earlier in the action log a Senior Prescriber, Michael Pritchard, has been appointed and he will come and speak to the group at a later date.

BACT coordinate with the Primary Care Network on this programme.

### ***Asylum Seekers***

From October, South East Staffordshire, like other parts of England has received asylum seekers within the area. These are men only and the criteria is 18years plus of age but unfortunately that has not been the case with some below 18.

After a highly stressed start all sites are now stable, have had all necessary safe guarding and health checks in place and are undergoing Home Office checks. For East Staffordshire they have been registered across nine GP practices and work is on going with various organisations such as BACT and Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, MPFT, regarding social wellbeing and other health needs, eg Foot treatment, mental health. There is also excellent cooperation with Tamworth CIC who have the same scenario and have been successful getting people into work etc.

The Chair, what about language difficulties? DM indicated there are up to 13 different speaking languages in one location but there is a good electronic translation service available which has helped.

### ***The Joy App***

This is a platform that links into both EMIS and System 1 surgery reporting systems. It is being designed to allow the social prescribers to feed in information about the people they see and are assisting without seeing any of the patients notes and records. It is a platform that will list all the services where patients can be signposted to. The app is to be relaunched at the end of March and will be available in the public domain. All the services/organisations within the app will be listed via post code so people can see those which are the nearest to them.

Joy can be found by going onto: <https://services.thejoyapp.com/>

### ***Community Mental Health Workers.***

There were none available until one appointed in December 2022. There will be 2 more appointed in April and they will all work out of the BACT Hub based at Casey Lane, Shobnall.

### ***Diabetes***

On 31<sup>st</sup> March there will be work around Diabetes Prevention and what surgeries are responsible for. In addition the PCN, UHDB, MPFT, and JB's DUK Patient Network are working on the formation of an East Staffordshire Clinical Community Diabetes Service which none has been in place for a number of years.

KB, (Rocester PPG) commented as follows.

- that "clients" need a bottom-up driven approach.
- Huge amount of work going on and a great deal of knowledge held by DM. What happens if suddenly taken ill, etc? What communication pathways are in place to ensure the entire system is still operational? Communication aspect is vital in all of this and as we all know there is currently a lot of miscommunications in our NHS.
- There is the discharge from hospital issues to investigate so bed blocking can be eased.
- Confidentiality.



DM appreciated all of the above but can confirm that all the work has gone through full governance process by the data protection office and has been approved.

Michelle Vodden, Support Staffordshire

The peer support work and access to Primary Care work is also an area she is looking at and in order to prevent duplication it was agreed that MV and DM should arrange to meet and discuss. IL of Support Staffordshire would also like to have a meeting with DM to discuss areas of mutual interest and the work Support Staffordshire does within the local area.

**Action** These 2 meetings to be arranged by DM/MV IL

Finally, DM thanked everyone for listening to her and the invitation. Happy to come back and give an update in the future.

The Chair thanked DM for a very informative feedback, and confirmed a further invitation will be sent later in the year so to enable an update on everything that is going on. The members present showed their appreciation in the normal manner.

## **10. Healthwatch, Staffordshire Update.**

The Vice-Chair had forwarded to all members the report that had been sent by DB. Below is a copy of the report.

### **Information under Healthwatch Agenda item for the meeting on the 16th of February 2023**

Work continues as per last month's detailed briefing. Just three things to mention:

1. Mental Health Consultation has now started and is on the District agenda for 16<sup>th</sup> of February. I did an enter-and-view visit to the Lichfield and Burntwood Integrated Mental Health Team yesterday combining it with MPFTs internal quality visit. It was positive, and it was evident the transformation in mental

health services is moving forward at pace.

2. The deep dive into Access to Primary Care is progressing with strong links now formed with the ICB primary care team. Visiting other parts of the county including the South Staffordshire District Council Scrutiny Committee last week.

3. U3A in Uttoxeter is interested in engaging and needs following up.

The Chair asked if anyone had any questions for DB. The only comment was that enquiries would be made on what sort of engagement the U3A was looking for. BW who is a member will investigate this and inform the Chair, Vice Chair, and DB.

### **11. Support Staffordshire Update from Ian Leech**

IL gave a brief update on his background, previous work with St Giles, his appointment, and role within Support Staffordshire.

Since starting early January and going through the induction training IL has been getting around the area and meeting the voluntary groups, especially the smaller ones, to see what support/assistance is required. It was soon apparent that there is a big issue around form filling for people to gain access to assistance which could have a positive dramatic change to their lives. Translation is also an issue. He has come across 3 groups who are for women and are doing exceptionally well.

One of these is a cycle group that runs out of Shobnall by Everyone Active. During the winter months they have had a break from cycling and in place now the women attend a woman only swimming group set up for them at Meadowside with up to 20 attending each session. In the Spring the cycling will recommence.

Finally, IL has been involved in recent applications under the Healthy Communities Grant monies.

DM commented that in terms of translation services she is currently looking into this and to bear in mind the current cost to the NHS for this service is £174 million.

KB, Rocester PPG, is the problem with form filling for those who are non-English speaking or other issues?

IL responded although language is one issue the main difficulty is the actual forms/questions which is affecting every type of person.

IL asked for his email to be put in the minutes so that people knew how to contact him. His email address is:

[ian.leech@supportstaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:ian.leech@supportstaffordshire.org.uk)

The Chair thanked IL for his update and informed the members that IL has been invited to all the district meetings.

## **12. PPG Updates**

### **LK, Peel Croft PPG**

Last recent meeting was on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 and was attended by Dr Faarup and the new Practice Manager Trish Dunn. Very good meeting but like most groups need new people and of differing ages.

### **SG, Yoxall PPG**

There was a face-to-face PPG meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The PPG and Parish Council are arranging for CPR training for residents especially with young children.

### **GS, Balance Street PPG**

Going forward GS will be the representative for Balance Street at the District Group. One area of interest was that UHDB wanted the surgery to take on Tier 4 Mental Health Hospital service. The surgery unfortunately currently only has 3 partners when in the past this was 6. There was a lot of pressure exerted to take on this service, so the surgery and PPG invited the local MP Kate Kniveton to a meeting and as a result she spoke to the ICB who resolved the issue with the hospital having to find its own service. With KK's involvement the resolution only took 2-3 weeks.

## **13. The East Staffordshire and Surrounds Diabetes UK Patient Network**

The Vice-Chair, who is also the Chair of the Diabetes Patient Network had sent to the members the report prior to the meeting. The details were as follows:

Following the last District meeting the network has been involved in

the following:

- Held our first virtual meeting for 2023 where the members had a presentation on what had been achieved in 2022 and the objectives for 2023.
- Attended the South East District Nurses monthly virtual meeting, giving details on what the network does, and how it could be of benefit to the work that they do.
- Invited to the NHS Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership monthly virtual meeting. Discussed where the network could be of support for those women who have gestational diabetes.
- Had a stand at the Support Staffordshire Volunteers Fair held in Lichfield Cathedral.
- Involved at the second “Reach Out” workshop on the formation of an East Staffordshire Diabetes Community Service.
- Held the first face-to-face network meeting in Burntwood. 8 people attended and wanted to have regular meetings. Plans being drawn up to have these on a regular six-week basis. On the 27th of February, a face-to-face meeting will be held at the Sacred Heart in Glascote, Tamworth. Again there will be the option to have regular meetings if the people wish.
- On Thursday 23rd of February there is to be a Health and Wellbeing Event at the Burton Albion Community Trust Hub in Casey Lane, Shobnall. The details have been circulated and a leaflet drop had been conducted to the households within the surrounding area.
- Have been successful in our application to the South East Locality Healthy Communities Grants Scheme for continuation funding.

There were no questions raised on the above and so the report was taken as read.

## **14. George Bryan Consultation**

Michelle Vodden had been invited to come and talk to the District Group about the public consultation that is presently ongoing over the long-term future of the George Bryan Centre in Tamworth.

MV started by thanking the members for giving her the opportunity to come and give information on the above consultation. MV works in the consultancy team of Support Staffordshire who have been asked to provide an independent arm for the voluntary sector as part of the wider NHS consultation.

### **Background**

On 12th February 2019, a fire destroyed the west wing of the George Bryan Centre. It provided an assessment, care, and treatment service for working-age adults who are in an acute state of mental illness and a mental health assessment and treatment service for people aged over 65. Since the fire, anyone living in South East Staffordshire who has needed an in-patient stay has been to St George's Hospital in Stafford. An enhanced service has been in place in the community to support people to stay in their own homes.

On Thursday 19 January 2023 the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board approved the pre-consultation business case for inpatient mental health services previously provided at the George Bryan Centre, to residents of southeast Staffordshire.

It also approved the recommendation to proceed to a public consultation on the single viable proposal to make permanent the 18 beds at St George's Hospital, Stafford, supported by enhanced community provision and that the consultation will take place for six weeks.

Recently, the Vice-Chair had forwarded to members the email from the ICB regarding the consultation and latterly at the request of MV, sent out the consultation document.

## **ICB email**

*Help us find a long-term solution for the inpatient mental health services previously provided at the George Bryan Centre. Our public consultation runs until midnight on Thursday 23 March 2023.*

*We have been working with patients and staff to redesign our local mental health services. This includes the inpatient (hospital) services that used to be provided at the George Bryan Centre in southeast Staffordshire.*

*We made some temporary changes to services when the George Bryan Centre had to close in 2019. We are now proposing to make these temporary changes permanent. No decision has been made about the proposal.*

*This consultation is not about the future use of the George Bryan Centre in Tamworth; this will be the subject of further discussions at a later date depending on the outcome of this consultation.*

*By sharing your views, you can help inform the final decision.*

*You can find details about the proposal and how to get involved in this consultation on the ICB website*

*at <https://staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk/get-involved/consultation-and-engagement/consultation-inpatient-mental-health-services-south-east-staffordshire/>*

## **Why is Burton involved?**

Because George Bryan would have been the place for people to go if inpatient care were required.

MV then played a video to everyone showing the history of George Bryan, the move of inpatient care to St Georges Stafford, and what has been put in place locally. In terms of local support in the Tamworth community mental health teams have been set up and

patients are only moved to Stafford when their health requires inpatient care.

In the document, there is a series of criteria that must be met. However, only one proposal is in the document and that is that all inpatient beds have to be at St George's Stafford and that the wing at the George Bryan will not be rebuilt.

### **So why the consultation?**

To see if the proposal needs to be tweaked.

The members raised the following concerns/comments.

- What are the lines of communication for people who have dementia?
- What facilities are there for families to stay with people?
- Cost of travel. Apparently, there is a document explaining this point and states that people can get costs reimbursed for the difference for a person having to travel to Stafford instead of Tamworth. This difference in cost will be paid at the rate of 18p/mile!! Apart from the rate being ridiculous, the admin costs associated will be a lot higher. Document attached.
- Various comments from the group regarding dementia care.

MV indicated that the proposed model will include the community support network will be bolstered for all these areas. Big discussion on this topic.

Other feedback included.

- What about people who are violent?
- Lack of public transport, bus/rail, to Stafford that will fit with visiting/access times.
- How do carers in the home cope? Also bear in mind not everyone registers as a carer.
- Examples were given of patients being pushed from the hospital to home and back again and all the issues this causes.

- How many beds are available- Thought to be 19. How can this cover the geographical areas involved?

In terms of support for families and visitors what will be in place for:

- Lines of communication
- Information on the care being given.
- Confidentiality
- The situation when the patient doesn't want to see family, but the family still wants information regarding their inpatient stay.
- Will visiting times be flexible?
- The patient coming back home situation.
- What happened to the insurance money from the fire?

MV appreciated all the above and asked if people would complete the consultation feedback form and give it back to her to capture all that had been said.

Finally, MV thanked everyone for the opportunity to come and speak and for all the feedback given.

### **15. Any Other Business.**

There was nothing raised under this agenda item.

### **16. Review of the Meeting.**

Highly informative, good discussions.

### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting, face-to-face, on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023** starting at 14.00hrs. Again this will be at Voluntary Services Centre, Union Street. The Chair SAR thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting.