



**Minutes of the meeting held at the
Community Room, Morrisons, Wellington Road,
Burton, DE14 on Thursday 13th February 2025,
between 13.00 and 15.00**

1. Present

SAR	Chair East Staffs District Patient Engagement Group, (Tutbury Patient Forum)
JB	Vice Chair East Staffs District Patient Engagement Group, (Tutbury Patient Forum)
BJW	(Tutbury Patient Forum)
KL	(Peel Croft PPG)
CD	(Trent Meadows PPG)
SG	(Yoxall PPG)
KB	(Rocester PPG)
IJ	(Carlton Group PPG)
EM	(Alrewas PPG)
SMcK	(Trent Meadows PPG)
DB	Healthwatch Staffordshire
AM	Healthwatch Staffordshire Manager
IL	Support Staffordshire Community Officer, Burton on Trent District
RB	East Staffs PCN Research & Support Manager

2. Welcome

The Chair, SAR, welcomed everyone to the meeting. A welcome was also given to AM the new Healthwatch Staffordshire Manager. For the benefit of WM everybody introduced themselves.

3. Apologies

The Vice-Chair/Secretary, JB, has received the following apologies:

TB (Yoxall PPG)

LT	(Carlton Group PPG)
DH	(Tamworth PPG)
RJB	(Trent Meadows PPG)
SMcK	(Trent Meadows PPG)
LH	(Peel Croft PPG)
JW	(Barton PPG)
CR	(Bridge PPG)
DM	(Bridge PPG)
DM	East Staffs Primary Care Community Manager

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4. Look Back on 2024 and Treasurers Report

As this was the first meeting of 2025 the Vice-Chair, JB, gave a slide presentation on the Group activities throughout 2024. Below is a copy of the slides.



<https://www.districtpatientsgroup.org/>

Look Back on 2024

Frequency of Meetings

- We continued to hold both face-to-face meetings on a bimonthly basis .

The face-to-face meetings were initially at the Support Staffordshire offices based in Burton until they closed in the summer.

For the rest of 2024 the meeting were held within the Community Room at Morrisons Burton

In 2025 the meetings will still be bimonthly within the Morrisons Community Café. The times for the meetings have been changed to a 1pm start and 3pm finish.

Membership

- The membership consists of representatives from those surgeries within East Staffordshire that have Patient Participation Groups. It also includes a representative from a Tamworth surgery PPG.

During the year the following East Staffordshire PPGs were represented

Tutbury
Peel Croft
Alrewas
Trent Meadows
Yoxall
Barton
Bridge
Carlton Group
Wetmore Road
Mill View

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Membership

- There are 18 surgeries within East Staffordshire, but we only have seen representation from 10 surgeries. To our knowledge the situation regarding the other 8 surgeries is as follows:

Winhill - Has a PPG
Dove River - Has a PPG
Gordon Street - No PPG
Stapenhill - No PPG
Northgate – Unsure
Balance Street – Has a PPG
Abbotts Bromley – Unsure
All Saints – No PPG

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Membership

- There is concern going forward due to the following reasons,

From our current membership we are aware that

Alrewas has now folded

Wetmore Road has now folded

Mill View, membership of one person who is retiring May 2015.

Barton only has one member and little impetus from the surgery to expand

Membership needs to be a top priority for 2025

- In addition, the Group also has at its meetings representatives from:

Healthwatch

Support Staffordshire

East Staffordshire Primary Care Network

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Speakers

- Throughout the year the following speakers gave presentations
- Richard Hibell, Primary Care Research Nurse, LCRN West Midlands Core Team, NIHR Clinical Research Network.
- Shelagh McKiernan , Social Prescriber
- Debbie Melling, East Staffs Primary Care Network, Community Manager
- Chris Viner, Managing Director, Community Home Solutions.

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Meetings

- The meetings follow an agreed agenda which has standard set items and inputs from:

Healthwatch – receive reports and updates on the Ambulance Service, NHS Care Review, Focus Group work, Deep Dives, Enter and View, ICB reviews and updates, and the Healthwatch Staffordshire Annual Report.

Support Staffordshire – Funding Streams, Community Activities, The Locality Forums, Video Initiative for groups, Grant availability, Issues raised by voluntary groups, (form filling).

Primary Care Network / Research – Regular updates on the work being carried out by the PCN, Research Opportunities, COVID and Flu Vaccinations, and other valuable information

East Staffs and Surrounds Diabetes UK Patient Network – Full reports given

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Additional Information

- The Group continues to be members of Support Staffordshire
- We continue being members of the Patients Association which produce weekly newsletters that have been distributed to all members.
- The current Vice Chair / Secretary is also the Chair of the East Staffs and Surrounds Diabetes UK Patient Network, and some Forum members are involved with the network.
- The current Chair and Vice-Chair / Secretary are the Voluntary Services Representatives on several Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board Health Portfolios.

Chair: Urgent and Emergency Care and Primary Care.

Vice Chair / Secretary ELF Portfolio, End of Life, Long Term Conditions and Frailty.

This enables the voice of the patient to be heard at levels where local health decisions are made.

- Our thanks go to Chris Darby for keeping our website updated throughout the year

Main Concerns

- At each meeting we have a section on Patient Stories. Concern had been raised over the number of negative patient stories that had been related to members of the East Staffordshire District Patient Engagement Group that involved local NHS Services. It had been agreed that all patients' stories received during 2024, both negative and positive, would be put into one document where they could be reviewed, discussed and an action plan drawn up. This document has been produced and issued to the members for discussion at the February 2025 meeting.
- The Group receives no funding and as the monies are at a low level an application has been made under the East Staffs Borough Council Community Fund. The outcome of this and other funding streams will be discussed at the February 2025 meeting.

The Vice-Chair gave a verbal presentation on the Group finances as of the 31st of December 2024. Due to the confidential nature of the topic the finances will not be shown in these minutes or on the website. All those present had no issues regarding the finances and the Chair, SAR, duly signed them on behalf of all present as being correct.

In the December 2024 minutes reference was made by the Vice Chair that he had applied for a grant, under the East Staffs Borough Council Community Fund to assist in the running of the Group going forward. This application has been successful, approx. £600. Under the terms of the Fund precise details had to be given about what the money was to be used for and spent before the payment is received into the bank account. In addition, any VAT payments will be removed before payment is made. This has now taken place, and the following items have been purchased:

Cartridge Save Printer Inks
Wonderwall Exhibition Tabletop Display Kit
Utopia Spandex Tablecloths
Postmaster A4 Envelopes, 100
Binding Bazaar A4 Laminating Pouches, 100
Wenlisell Hook and Loop Tape
Aspect A4 Printer Paper, 5 reams
Trakt Design and Print Annual Website Cost
Annual Public Liability Insurance

Total

£600.54 inc of VAT

The details have now been forwarded to the Grant Committee to release the funds, (above sum minus VAT and Insurance Purchase tax).

In addition to the above a further donation has been received and the details were given by the Chair, SAR.

Following the presentations there were discussions on the way forward especially concerning PPG representation. An action plan will be drawn up and sent out as a discussion document. During the discussions the various topics raised included:

- Texting patients and the cost implications/pressure surgeries are under in this area.
- Messaging under WhatsApp is not allowed by the NHS.
- The Managers at Gordon Street, Alrewas and All Saints have indicated they wish to discuss PPGs with the District Group.
- KB, Mill View PPG I shall retire as the Mill View member at the end of May and hope that someone will step forward to represent the Practice. It has been a privilege to be of small service throughout a sometimes difficult, 4 year period, as all group members' surgeries have gone through periods of political reorganization, epidemics and in some instances wilful sabotage. Thank you all for your support and professional comradeship. All present were sorry to hear the news and understood the reasons behind the decision.
- There were discussions around the issues in getting GP appointments and it was suggested that we approach the new Alrewas Practice Manager, RM, along to a meeting to explain the GP appointment system they use.

5. Election of Officers to serve throughout 2025.

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 received no nominations. The Chair asked if there was anyone who wished to put

themselves forward? No one was wanting to. The members asked if the existing officers would be willing to continue. Under section 7 of the Constitution it states:

- If after the 3 years' continuous tenure, in an elected position, there is no other PPG representative wishing to stand for that position the members can re-elect the current incumbent if that person is willing to stay in that position.

The existing officers, SAR and JB, were willing to continue in office so those present were asked to vote for:

Chair: Susan Adey- Rankin.

Result: Unanimous Agreement

Vice-Chair/Secretary/Treasurer: John Bridges,

Result: Unanimous Agreement

Both the Chair and Vice-Chair thanked everyone for their support and accepted to serve in those positions throughout 2025.

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 2024. As a mark of appreciation for the work CD does for the District and Tutbury Practice Patient Forum, TPPF, websites a donation was given in the form of an Amazon voucher. All present, as with the TPPF were in full agreement with the donation made and thanked CD for the work undertaken. CD was extremely grateful and wished his thanks to be recorded and sent to the TPPF.

IL Support Staffordshire advised that it is important that the topic of succession planning is discussed in detail.

6. Constitution: Amendment for consideration

The Vice-Chair, JB, indicated that now we have our own bank the members must consider and agree on what should happen to any balance of monies if the Group were to fold. There was a discussion on the topic, and it was agreed that it should go to local charities/organisations, maximum 3. The Chair, SAR, asked for the PPG representatives to give the topic some thought and forward

suggestions to her and the Vice-Chair prior to the next meeting. This would then be an agenda item with a vote/decision taken by the PPG representatives with the constitution amended accordingly.

With there being no further business the Chair closed the AGM

7. Minutes of the Meetings held on 5th December 2024

The Vice-Chair indicated that the minutes indicated that LK, Peel Croft PPG, was present. This was an error as should have been in apologies. No further issues were raised, and the minutes were accepted as a true record.

8. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There are no matters arising that will not be covered by the agenda.

9. Action Log Update

(i). Presentation given by Chris Viner, Managing Director, Community Home Solutions.

Ensure presentation is circulated asap.

This is done and resent again on 2nd February.

Action Update: Closed.

(ii). Speakers for 2025

Members would like to have input from:

- The UHDB Trust
- Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care Board.
- Will writing/Power of Attorney and from the Funeral Services.

No speakers have arranged yet but will consider the requests above.

Action Update: Still ongoing

(iii). 2025 District Meeting Dates

All dates and times were agreed at the December meeting.

Following the meeting the timings of the meetings were changed and full details sent out to the members.

Action Update: Closed

(iv). Application for a grant under the East Staffordshire Borough Council Community Fund.

The Secretary informed the members that he had applied for a grant, under the East Staffs Borough Council Community Fund to assist in the running of the Group going forward.

Action Update: Application was successful, and full details will be

given at the meeting on the 13th of February. **Action Closed**

(v). Patient Stories

At the December meeting the Secretary, JB, had produced the agreed document relating to all 2024 patient stories which were read out and discussed by those present.

Further patient stories were related by those present in December and these will be incorporated into the document.

The final document would then be produced and circulated in readiness for a full discussion/action plan at the February 2025 meeting.

Currently, in some cases the stories indicate the person. When the final document is produced, and to maintain confidentiality, the names will be removed. Meanwhile, as discussed at the meeting, it would be appreciated if this document is not circulated outside of the group representatives.

Action Update: The final document has now been produced and will be discussed at the meeting on 13th February.

There were no further actions from the meeting.

10. Patient Stories

(i). Patient Stories 2024, Document.

Concern had been raised over the number of negative patient stories that had been related to members of the East Staffordshire District Patient Engagement Group that involved local NHS Services. It had been agreed that all patients' stories received during 2024, both negative and positive, would be put into one document where they could be reviewed, discussed and an action plan drawn up.

At the December meeting the content within the document had been approved but for confidentiality individual names had to be removed. This had been carried out and circulated prior to the meeting.

The topic was discussed by everyone present, and the following was agreed: The document, to be emailed with an introductory paragraph, to the following:

UHDB Patient Experience

Dr David Atherton, Chair East Staffordshire Primary Care Network

Healthwatch Staffordshire

MPFT.

With a request for feedback and the opportunity to give this at a future District Group meeting.

Action: The email content to be written by the Vice-Chair, JB and agreed by the Chair before sending.

(ii). TB, Yoxall PPG

Although I fully appreciate all that was done for me January 2024 with as a large multi professional team saved my life in a profoundly serious life-threatening situation the follow up care has not been brilliant as not seen a cardiologist since May 2024!! I have had to contact the secretary numerous times regarding further serious symptoms and test results which were very abnormal!!

My situation should have been discussed at July cardiology MDT and I did not hear anything so rang again told was not discussed after all and put back until August. I finally heard from the team, via a letter in mid-September re-changing heart meds as heart in first degree heart block and all four chambers beating at various times which has been horrendous to cope with. Both from debilitating symptoms and anxiety of whether I would have another cardiac arrest!! Thankfully although far from normal my heart has settled a lot with new drug but took 4 months to change the medication. Again, following yet again me ringing the secretary following another 24hr cardiac tape in October, and not hearing anything back I asked for a cardiology follow up appt which is now mid Jan 25. Although they are a wonderful team, who I know are under immense pressure and work extremely hard, the follow-up care, protocols, and communication are sadly lacking. However, when I have rung, the Consultants' secretaries have always supported me and sent appointments as requested. This is just an update, but I feel guilty saying the above as it sounds so ungrateful, but it is like other's experiences.

(ii). IL Support Staffordshire

Following on from my patient story in December, I have recently been trying to book a PSA test as I have some concerns about my prostate. I had asked for one in December, but for reasons best known to the doctors I met with, I wasn't tested.

Anyway, I went into the practice mid-morning and asked for a PSA test. I was asked if the doctor had authorised it. I told them that I had wanted it done back in December as I had an enlarged prostate, but it

wasn't done. In my head there were adverts playing of people who if they were worried about their health should contact their GP surgery.

The receptionist informed me that I'd have to speak to the doctor for him to authorise one. I asked for an appointment. They hadn't any. I said, it doesn't have to be today, it's a concern, but it's not urgent so anytime will do. They told me that all appointments were booked for the next two weeks, and I would have to ring at 8am to get one. (Note: What if I worked, had child drop off etc and couldn't ring at 8am or 2pm?). Why two weeks? Why not four weeks or 28 days?)

The following day life got in the way, and I forgot to ring, but the next day I was primed with my phone and rang, bang on 8am. I pressed all the relevant buttons and was told that the queue was full and to ring back later. This happened several times. At 8.37am I gave up. A few days later I got an appointment for two weeks' time. This system of appointment booking at Trent Meadows does not make sense. It appears that it is there to make life easier for the staff, not the patients. It needs to be looked at. They need to understand that people often can't drop everything at 0800 each morning in the hope of getting through and getting an appointment. There must be easier ways! Dying springs to mind!

That said, I was disturbed by a sign in the doctors that read "Appointments not attended week commencing 13th January – 51". That is equally appalling. I know this has been brought up many times before, but that is one surgery and equates to 10 appointments a day. I would ask the following questions: Are other surgeries experiencing this? What is being done to cut those numbers? Is there a number that patients can ring to cancel appointments that is separate from the main number? Is there a keypad option to cancel appointments? Is there enough emphasis on people being told they must ring the surgery if they can't attend?

A discussion arose around getting a GP appointment and it was suggested by EM that RM, the new Alrewas Practice manager be asked to come along to a meeting to explain GP appointment system they use.

(iii). JB, Tutbury PPG

Taken ill in January. Had to contact NHS 111 who sent me to A&E, Queens Burton, with outcome of being admitted to Ward 15, having a procedure and discharged 5 days later. The overall experience on the

care and attention to detail from NHS111, A&E, Ward 15, the Consultant and his team was exemplary, and a letter is to be sent to the Patient Experience team stating this with a request to inform everyone concerned. In addition, NHS111 will also be contacted.

(iv). SMcK, Trent Meadows

Related her story of being in South Wales at Christmas and had a fall breaking her hip. After having an operation to fix the break was transferred to Queens, where had to stay for 17 nights. Care was good apart from having to change wards 3 times one of these being at 3am in the morning? After discharge, no follow up, fit note, physio etc. No wound dressings and had to sort out with our surgery. Still haven't received a fit note to drive.

(v). Dave Bassett, Healthwatch

Son fell on the ice and damaged his shoulder. Instead of going to the Queens, A&E, went to Lichfield. Was seen, Xray, told not broken and discharged within 55mins.

11. PPG Updates

The following report had been received and sent out prior to the meeting.

(i). Tutbury PPG

- Our last meeting was on the 29th of January. The meeting began with the AGM, Presentation given on work carried out during 2024, the financial situation, election of officers to serve throughout 2025 and objectives for 2025. Previous officers re-elected.
- Meetings will continue to be held bimonthly and there will be another Health Event, Prostate and Menopause talks, quiz nights and coffee mornings with Trent and Dove.
- In November was the last of our Past Times Social afternoon where people with dementia and their carers came for drinks and cakes/biscuits and chat with people who may be able to assist them. This had run throughout 2024 but unable to continue due to the external funding for the voluntary sector personnel coming to an end. We are in discussions to see what else may be possible.

(ii). Update Mill View Surgery PPG given at the meeting

- The surgery now operates an open surgery - no-one has to 'phone' for an appointment to see a Doctor in the morning, Patients are seen on the day, they just turn up first thing, wait and are seen There are special appointments late afternoon for people who are at work.

12. Healthwatch Update. The report circulated prior to the meeting.

- **Deep Dives:** We are about to publish a report on Admission avoidance services and are working on a second report looking at patient experience of hospital discharge.
- **Enter and View:** Myself and Christie Sherwood undertook a visit to Fauld House Care Home in mid-January and will be publishing our report shortly.
- **Horninglow Clinic:** Is temporarily closed for a refurbishment including creating more space to see patients. Alternative arrangements have been made by MPFT to see patients elsewhere in the short term with appropriate communication in place.
- **Queens Hospital A&E:** The waiting area has been moved temporarily into the previous phlebotomy dept while building work is undertaken to create a dedicated minor injuries treatment area and redesigned waiting area which will then release more capacity in the main A&E Dept
- **Queens Hospital Phlebotomy:** has been moved to the rear of the Treatment Centre and is well signposted. Arrangements in place to support people with mobility issues to access the facility.
- **Royal Derby Car Parking:** Work to build the new multi-story car park is progressing. The free parking and ride service has been enhanced with a second bus added to reduce waiting times. Action has been taken to address payment issues within the on-site short stay car parks for those who overstay for genuine reasons.
- **Royal Derby Outpatients:** The Trust is currently looking at the functioning of its outpatient services and has an external company interviewing service users.
- **UHDB Maternity Services Improvement Plan:** This continues at pace with a range of initiatives being undertaken at both Derby and Burton

DB gave the following information/update at the meeting.

- The Integrated Care Board is sending a cancer bus around Staffordshire over the next 3 weeks. On the 4th of March it will be at

the Octagon Centre, Burton and will be in the marketplace Uttoxeter on the 7th of March.

- The following information relating to Horninglow Clinic has been sent out recently from MPFT.

February 2025

Temporary closure of Horninglow Clinic in Burton-upon-Trent for refurbishment, and relocation of affected services

Dear colleague

I am writing to inform you that Horninglow Clinic, in Carlton Street, Burton-upon-Trent is temporarily closing to enable a much-needed refurbishment of the facility. The closure came into effect on Monday 3 February, and will last for a period of up to 12 weeks.

Services at Horninglow are being provided from several different community locations in Burton-upon-Trent during this time, and patients have been informed. This means that patient appointments will still be held whilst this essential work takes place.

As part of this work, additional clinical spaces are being developed, while the remainder of the building will be renovated to ensure it is more fit for purpose. Once reopened the clinic will be able to offer an enhanced experience to patients and their families.

For reference, the following mental health services provided at Horninglow Clinic include:

- Community Mental Health services operating within the East Staffordshire Primary Care Network (PCN) area
- Integrated Mental Health team
- Intensive Life Skills Service
- Older adult services
- Adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) service
- Early Intervention team

This refurbishment highlights the Trust's commitment to investing in the future of health and care for the communities we serve, and I hope you will join me in looking forward to what promises to be a much-improved site for Burton-upon-Trent. We will provide an update when the clinic is reopened.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact Yasmine Girling, Neighbourhood Lead – East Staffs (Burton & Uttoxeter) at yasmine.girling@mpft.nhs.uk who will be happy to respond.

Yours sincerely,
Jennie Collier
Managing Director
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Care Group

Dave Bassett (he/him), Engagement Officer – Southeast Staffordshire

AM gave an update on her new position as the Healthwatch Staffordshire Manager. Has replaced Baz who has taken up a position at Support Staffordshire in the North of the County. Been in the position almost 4weeks. Previously worked in the Young Persons Services a 24/7 service. Was very grateful for the opportunity to attend the meeting and thanked everyone for such a warm welcome.

13. Update from the Support Staffordshire Community Officer for Burton/Uttoxeter.

In recent months we have tendered for a Community Needs Analysis for two specific areas we identified that needed deeper consideration. The first was around Diabetes in the diverse communities of Burton on Trent, this is being undertaken by local social enterprise, Burton Unity.

The second Community Needs Analysis is being undertaken by the University of Staffordshire and this is focused on Neurodivergent Women in the Southeast of Staffordshire. Both pieces of research will report back in the Summer and Autumn of 2025. And we can then share this learning with our health colleagues who helped to shape and inform their initial scope.

- **WOMENS HEALTH**

Gulsoom is working on A Women's Health Festival for the Southeast of Staffordshire which will be held on the 30th of April 2025 in Burton on Trent in partnership with The Brewhouse Arts Centre. The festival aims to educate and empower women by connecting them with local health services in a creative and inclusive space.

Free tickets are available to join a day that will feature health presentations, resources, a menopause hub, workshops, art, music, food and lots more.

The six clinical teams present at the festival will be Cervical Screening, Podiatry, Bone Health, Musculo skeletal, Pelvic Health and Breast Screening.

In the lead up to the festival there will be two panel discussions, the first on 27th February about Neurodivergent Women. The second on 10th April about Menopause with both panels are being held at Burton and South Derbyshire College.

- **SMARTPHONE TRAINING:**

We have announced a first round of in person smartphone video training in Lichfield, Burton on Trent and Tamworth and this can be repeated in the summer if there is further demand. Presenting case studies and the work of organisation in a creative and visual way is proving helpful to share the stories, impact and potential of investment in the voluntary sector.

These training opportunities are advertised on the VCSE Alliance Basecamp and can be attended by health colleagues. We can also provide bespoke training for local community groups.

- **COMMUNITY OFFICERS**

All this work and more has been led by Community Officers in each locality and they are also building relationships with community members and listening to their lived experience.

We often connect people to services both in the community and health services that they weren't aware of.

We can identify gaps in services, examples include form filling, doctors' appointments, community transport and for groups, core funding.

Effective Community Engagement is something we know our colleagues in Health are keen to do well.

Building relationships can take many months, sometimes years to build and strengthen. Our community engagement practice recognises this and meets people regularly in their places, in their community.

Ian Leech (he/him), Community Officer.

14. Further Updates

The following further update was sent prior to the meeting.

(i). East Staffordshire and Surrounds Diabetes UK Patient Network

The initial 2025 planned face-to-face and virtual meetings within East and Southeast Staffordshire have now been held.

At the end of December/early January the dates were sent to all GPs for promotion and request to advertise within surgeries and give out to the patients with diabetes. In addition, the details have been published on the Joy App, Support Staffordshire, Basecamp (system Staffordshire wide for the voluntary sector), local libraries, Staffordshire Connects, Pharmacies and our website on Diabetes UK.

At all these meetings there was a presentation given on achievements in 2024 and plans for 2025.

The face-to-face meetings are in some cases now held in different locations/days and times. It was pleasing to see better than usual attendance and also new members attending.

Regarding other work, the Chair attends events wherever possible. Recently these included.

- Continues to attend the monthly MPFT East Staffs Performance & Quality Assurance Forum Open Meeting at the beginning of each month. First meeting of 2025, February 10th
- Attends, as the patient representative, for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Voluntary Services, the Integrated Care Board portfolio meetings for Long Term Conditions, End of Life and Frailty. Meetings have already been held in January and February 2025.
- In discussions/meetings with various people/ organisations regarding the structured education programmes for people with diabetes, and lived experience of diabetes, In addition similar meetings on the benefits of exercise.

2025 Health Event

A full one-day health conference is to be held at the Pavilion, Branston Golf and Country Club. This is being totally organised and run by East Staffordshire and Surrounds Diabetes UK Patient Network.

"Diabetes Patient Care, A New Dawn". This will be taking place on Thursday 5th of June 2025 and will be at the Branston Golf and Country Club, in Burton. At this conference, we will have recognised people to

come together and discuss how we can work as one to improve and offer consistent care throughout the Patient Journey for those who have Diabetes. The objective will be to come up with a blueprint for Diabetes Care for not only East Staffordshire but the rest of the County and wider. Yes, a huge ask but we must start somewhere, and the new Integrated Care Systems are supposed to work outside of silos. Unfortunately, at times we do not see this happening.

The organisation of the event is progressing well, the venue and all arrangements for the day have now been finalised and we now have several keynote speakers who will be attending and presenting on the day. These include:

1. Peter Shorrick Diabetes UK Midlands & East Accepted
2. Dr David Unwin and his work on low carbohydrate. Accepted
3. A representative from the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent ICB to present their Diabetes Strategy. R. Gallyot will be on holiday but has said someone will attend and present Accepted
4. Dr David Atherton representing East Staffordshire Primary Care. Accepted
5. Ann Gray to discuss the National Diabetes Prevention Programme. Accepted
6. Kellee Sewell, MPFT, has agreed to present on the eight-care process work being carried out in the community. Accepted
7. Adam Mayze, Diabetes UK, Youth Coordinator who will present on the work being carried out with young people in our area with Type 1 diabetes. Accepted
8. In discussion with Secondary Care for input.
9. Have approached Debbie Smith, Community/Desmond lead for East Staffordshire. Update on the new service
10. MPFT, our community providers to cover the other services that people with diabetes are offered and what is currently available, for example District Nurses, Podiatry, Retinopathy, and Talking Therapies.

In terms of the audience, the invite will include people from all aspects of delivering patient care, such as the

GPs, Nurses:

Podiatry

The Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust: Our Staffordshire

Community Providers

Public Health

Mental Health Partners

The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board:

Staffordshire County Council:

Healthwatch:

Representatives from our ethnic communities

The Voluntary Sector:

The mayor and other Councillors

Patients, including representatives from our hard-to-reach communities:

This will not only include patients being present but a presentation on their health care experiences

There will also be exhibitors.

John Bridges Chair East Staffordshire and Surrounds Diabetes UK Patient Network

(ii). Primary Care Network Update:

Research Bus

MPFT have acquired 2 Research buses, 1 to be in Stafford, the other located in Cheadle. The bus is purpose built to promote and deliver research. There are two rooms available, one for patient consent and discussion, the other for taking bloods etc. and delivery of research testing. The bus has heating, lighting, Wi-Fi connection, a fridge, centrifuge and hand washing facilities. We hope to utilise the bus to promote research in the locality and carry out research testing in those hard-to-reach communities and areas.

ICB Cancer Bus

DB, Healthwatch already given an update earlier

Pre-Diabetes Testing

We are currently looking at a device that will analyse finger prick blood tests to test for prediabetes and hopefully other tests dependant on the testing kits available. The Afinion machine is a costly piece of equipment along with the testing kits, we can either purchase the equipment or rent it for specific events, watch this space

Warmer Homes Initiative

All practices have taken part in the warmer homes' initiative, inviting patients via text message to apply for a home improvement grant to help with heating and insulation. Those patients eligible should receive a text message to invite them to apply for the grant. Cohort of patients being invited are those living with a long-term condition or severe health

condition, respiratory disease, poor mobility or immunosuppressed. It is hoped that by improving the warmth of the home it will help to reduce ill health and the number of patients attending hospital with acute conditions.

PHIO

Digital musculoskeletal solution for patients with MSK pain. Patients can register on the app for an assessment. Entering symptoms into the app patients will obtain self-help guides and exercises to help with their conditions. It is hoped to reduce the need of patients to attend their GP surgery. If symptoms do not resolve after a few weeks patients will be advised to seek further intervention from their GP. To gain access to PHIO scan the QR code on Practice websites, Facebook pages and in the surgery.

MEDAL Study

Practices are being invited to participate in the MEDAL study. This study is looking at patients with acute back pain, starting them on a low dose analgesic and titrating medication up rather than down patients. Patients will be prescribed medication to help with their pain and reviewed to see if the medication is having the desired effect. Patients will be prescribed a higher dose of medication should the low dose not be effective. Patients will follow a titration dose until such time as their symptoms improve or there is a need to refer to their GP.

SAFE-D Study

The safety study is another study looking at patients with new onset diabetes and their risk of developing pancreatic cancer is in the early stages now but so we await some more news

Pancreatic Case Finding Pilot

East Staffordshire PCN have been chosen as one of the PCN's to work with West Midlands Cancer Alliance on the national NHS cancer programme, looking to identify pancreatic cancer in new onset diabetics who have weight loss. The pilot is looking at intervention in newly diagnosed diabetes patients who have experienced weight loss to see if pancreatic cancer can be detected earlier via blood tests and scans rather than waiting for patients to present with symptoms. Phase one will start in June and run until June 2027.

Data Dissent Project

This project is in its final stages. Historically patients who dissented to share their information for research purposes were coded with exclusion codes, this meant that when research searches were carried out in the

clinical GP systems, these patients were excluded from being invited. The RRDN (Regional Research Delivery Network) have since changed the way they search for research participants. Two new codes have been introduced, superseding the old codes. The RRDN now exclude patients who are coded with the new code, and it was necessary to check with patients who had historical codes in their medical record to see if they still wished to be excluded. Text messages have been sent to those eligible patients to ask them if they still wished to be excluded. The text message included a link to a questionnaire and the responses were saved directly into the patients' medical record.

Rachael

Rachael Brown

East Staffs Primary Care Research and Support Manager

15. Any Other Business

No items raised.

16. Review of the Meeting.

Highly informative, good discussions, lot of input and discussion, finished on time.

17. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 20th, 2025, between 1pm and 3pm. The Chair, SAR, thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting.