

**Minutes for Flitwick Surgery PPG  
17.00 -1900 hrs on Thursday 16 September 2021**

**Present:**

Sally Law (Chair)

Alan Elliot

Lionel Yarde

Fred Degenhardt

Andrew Long

Dr Stuart Short (Senior Partner, Flitwick Surgery)

Penny Luker-Brown (Flitwick Surgery, Practice Manager)

Sally-Jane Hamilton (PCN Director and Clinical Pharmacist)

**Apologies:** The chair reported apologies from Richard Kennedy, Richard Pardoe and Angel Brown,

**Approval of Meeting Notes from March 2021:** These were agreed.

**Matters Arising:** None were raised.

**Chairperson Report (Sally Law)**

Sally reported that she had had constructive hand over meetings with both Julie Abrahams (previous PPG chair) and Penny Luker-Brown.

Sally raised the suggestion that the PPG could identify and support projects that would benefit patients at the practice but would normally not be funded within primary care. Ideas considered were in relation to ways to utilise the garden space or in the waiting room area. It was agreed to bring this item forward to the next PPG meeting.

**Practice Manager Report (Penny Luker-Brown)**

Penny outlined the current shortage of blood test vials and the impact this was having on services. The Surgery had to carefully manage its current stocks of vials and was only able to allocate appointments according to national guidance. This was in order to minimise risks to patient care. This was a problem beyond their control, and it was unclear how long this would last for.

The Surgery had already started the winter flu vaccinations and intends to take part in the autumn covid vaccination booster campaign, focusing on patients who might struggle to travel to vaccination centres outside Flitwick.

The waiting room was currently being prepared for re-opening to patients.

**Guest Speaker: Sally-Jane Hamilton – PCN Clinical Director and Clinical Pharmacist at Flitwick Surgery.**

Sally-Jane attended the meeting to explain the new role of Primary Care Networks (PCNs). She also explained that the PCNs were also funded to provide additional allied staff that would expand the support to patients. One popular role for patients has been the increased number of appointments available with PCN clinical pharmacists to help manage medications. It was agreed that other PCN additional roles would be invited to attend PPG meetings in future.

**Treasurer Report:** No matters were raised.

**Locality:**

Proposed Retirement Developments in Flitwick. The PPG discussed the proposed planning requests to develop housing for older people in Flitwick. There was a concern that these plans did not include additional infrastructure to support services and facilities in Flitwick, particularly with regard to primary care services. The Surgery advised that they cannot comment whether they are in support or not of these developments as this is beyond their remit and would not be appropriate. If these proposed developments are approved and built then the Surgery will liaise and work closely with the CCG to respond to any changes in demand to NHS primary care services locally.

**N.A.P.P:** No matters were raised.

**AOB:**

The PPG members discussed organising an informal pre PPG meeting in December at the French Horn in Steppingley, subject to covid restrictions.