Patients Group

Spital Surgery Patients Group

Meeting Minutes – Thursday 5th November 2026

Spital Surgery Training Room – 1pm

Attendees

Pat Carter, Steve Evans (Chairman), Lucy Ferguson (Senior Administrator), Justine Griffiths (Medical Secretary), Allan Grogan (Dementia Together Wirral), Emma Hadwin (Practice Manager), Dr. Johnny Minns (GP) in-part, George Rennie & Ian Wrigley.

Apologies

Ann Evans, Tricia Harrison (Vice-Chair), Na'amat Little, Susan Milner, Cheryl Peers, Bob Wright, Heather Wrigley.

Ratification of Last Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting on Thursday 3rd September were agreed, with one amendment to add Pat Carter to the apologies.

Roundtable Discussion

Cancer Screening - Dr. Johnny Minns, who is the cancer lead for the PCN and works with the Cancer Alliance, asked the group for ideas and support on ways to heighten awareness and further engage in the completion of routine cancer screening tests, particularly in the Learning Disability cohort, were uptake is around 40%, which is very low. By 2028 the long-term NHS plan is to ensure all cancers are diagnosed by stages 1 or 2, at present it is nearer 55%. Increasing that percentage of cancer screening would make a real difference. Unfortunately, many patients just do not use the screening kits, or do not attend apps for bowel, breast or cervical cancer screening despite regular reminder letters or texts.

A few ideas were shared, including the possibility of a video explaining the stool sample cancer screening procedure. We agreed to investigate, by engaging all the PPGs in our PCN for thoughts and ideas on how to improve cancer screening and general awareness. Steve will liaise with Emma and Dr. Minns, then write to all the PCN PPGs as a starting point.

Dementia Together Wirral (DTW) – Allan Grogan gave a remarkably interesting presentation about Dementia. Allan who is the founder member and life-president of DTW

explained how they were formed, how they operate, and about the Dementia Cafés around Wirral.

Dementia affects around 35,000 in Cheshire and Merseyside, with 2,400 under 65 (young onset dementia), with a further 23,000 waiting for a diagnosis which can take 2.5 years. Dementia cannot be cured, but there are preventative measures to slow down or ease the onset of it. Research is ongoing, but is very time consuming, at least 6 years. Blood tests by spinal sample are now available to find out if you have the gene, or are disposed towards dementia, but there is a morale issue with this. Would you want to know if you were going to have dementia?

Allan gave out contact details on how you can volunteer, or you wish to find out more, and he gave out leaflets which will be copied and left in the surgery. Contact details are, website – www.dementiatogetherwirral.org, email – info@dementiatogetherwirral.org or telephone – 07935 797445. They are also on Facebook and Instagram. There is a pamphlet, and further information is available on the several types of dementia and how to treat it, that is a further lengthy presentation.

Chairman's Update

Steve reminded the meeting about posting a favourable review on Google to help promote the surgery. To do this, do a Google search for Spital Surgery, scroll to 'Reviews' and post your comments as required.

WUTH – the foyer/entrance to Arrowe Park Hospital is undergoing a major change. The work has started and is likely to last around ten weeks and finished in the new year. Annabelle's Café & Light Bites have now closed. The redeveloped area will include a Costa Coffee, Coop convenience store and a 24/7 Smart Market.

The WUTH Annual Members Meeting takes place on Wednesday 11th November in the Lecture Theatre at 10.30am. All members of the public are welcome.

Healthwatch Forum relevant points - **MFRS** (Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service) stated that, Merseyside residents can telephone 0800 731 5958 for free fire and safety advice, or to request a Home Fire Safety Check visit. Many Merseyside residents are eligible for free smoke alarms fitting, particularly people age 65+.

Diabetes - An estimated 6 million UK residents have diabetes. There is a Diabetes Smart free course to support local people living with diabetes. It is an opportunity to learn about making positive lifestyle changes and how to manage pre-diabetes, type 1 and 2 diabetes. Access to the service is by this self-referral link Referral Form - diabetes (type 1 and 2) - Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust or telephoning 0151 604 7271. GP's and healthcare professionals can also refer people into the service.

General Practice Update

The landlord of the surgery has agreed to install gas to the premises. Work will start to install gas central heating and will take around a month to complete with most of the work taking place out-of-hours at night and weekends.

With winter pressures, the PCN has agreed there will be further extended access sessions. This is with existing GPs doing extended hours and especially more on a Saturday, which suits many patients.

Flu vaccine take up in the surgery has dropped slightly this year. 340 patients had their jabs at a pharmacy instead of the surgery. This impacts the surgery, who may now have vaccines left over, which is a costly exercise.

There is a new initiative, Neighbourhoods. The Government are encouraging collaborative working within the PCN as Neighbourhoods. For example, the surgery will work on a topic and collaborate with other providers, such as the Community Trust, charities and others on a topic that is relevant to our local Neighbourhood. Healthier South Wirral PCN are suggesting Loneliness. The first meeting is in December; relevant parties have been invited. The PCN are also looking at reduced hospital admissions for patients with dementia, who do not live in a Care home , this would affect about 1% of the 50,000 HWS patients. Therefore, 500 patients who have dementia, and living at home, who are prone to, or likely to have a hospital admission, and the Neighbourhood will attempt prevention of admission.

The frailty service, also within HSW is running fully after a few issues sourcing the relevant staff. There are 190 patients on the register, and it is running very well.

A new Paramedic, Jhetta is joining the surgery on 4th January. Also, a new Mental Health Practitioner, Louise joins us on 23rd November.

Also, we are the only PCN in the country that conducts autism reviews. There is already an ADHD service in operation.

A new ST1 (Specialty Trained Year 1) GP Registrar, Susmita Bhowmick starts with the surgery in February.

DNA (Did Not Attend) figures for October. GP 20 missed appointments = 5 hours. Nurse 79 missed appointments = 9 hours.

DNA 12 months average – 19.5 per-month (total 233).

Appointment figures October

780 face-to-face appointments. 391 telephone consultations.

Telephone figures October

Average number of calls into reception each week – 596.

Average waiting time for calls to be answered – 2 minutes 11 seconds.

Average queue time for abandoned calls – 3 minutes 25 seconds.

Callbacks 64.

PLT (Protected Learning Time) dates for 2027 have been released, they are as follows: Wednesday 3rd February, Thursday 15th April, Tuesday 15th June & Wednesday 13th October.

AOB

Ian enquired as to what happened at the meeting with the landlord of the premises back in September. The landlord agreed to install gas into the premises. Therefore, central heating can then be installed.

Emma mentioned that there is also some initial exploration into acquiring a further room on the first floor above and beyond the pharmacy next door. The plan is to house the Research Team there to free up a clinical room downstairs. As space is at a premium, despite the new room in reception.

The ongoing Vineyard Farm new housing estate debate goes on and concerns about the infrastructure of schools , health services to support the increase in housing .

It was agreed to go ahead with the Christmas Party on Tuesday 1st December.

There was no other business.

Date of Next Meetings

The Christmas Party will be on **Tuesday 1st December** at Spital Surgery.

Our next meeting is scheduled to be held on **Thursday 7th January 2026 starting at 1:00pm at Spital Surgery.** Speaker to be announced at later date, but it is likely to be from Viv (Manjinder Sidhu) – Pharmacy Lead at Temple Pharmacy, Lancelyn Precinct.

An email a week before the January meeting will be sent out with an agenda and the previous minutes and will also include confirmed details of the presentation.

If any members have any queries or comments about these minutes, please feel free to contact us by E-mailing Steve on stephenevans03@hotmail.co.uk