

Hollies Patients Forum (HPF)

Steering Group Meeting

Monday 2 June 2025, 6-7.30pm

Attendance

Linda Campbell (LC)
Craig Fishwick (CF) (GP)
Sally Freeman (Secretary) (SF)
Rory Freeman (RF)
Harry Frost (HFo)
Howard Fry (E-group Coordinator) (HFy)
Ian Hodgson (Chair) (IH)
Jeet Khosa (JK)
John Nelson (JN)
Jean Nowell-Eyre (JNE)
Michael Worboys (MW) (Newsletter Editor)

Apologies for absence

Linda Strudwick
Pauline Tryner
Barbara Wigley

CORE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Linda Strudwick, Pauline Tryner, and Barbara Wigley.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

Dr Craig Fishwick introduced himself and spoke informally about using Heidi Health (generally positive).

3. Notes from previous meeting and action points

Two items were raised:

- IH raised a question from the last meeting **regarding violent incidents**. Fortunately, there are very few violent incidents at Hollies Medical Practice (HMC); there is no official recording mechanism. If an incident occurs it is referred to South Yorkshire Police, and all incidents of this nature are recorded internally as a *significant event* and discussed at a practice meeting and reported to the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the regulator of health and social care in England.
- HFy has now taken over as **E-group Coordinator**. Thank you!

All other actions and items resolved or on this meeting's agenda.

CORE DISCUSSION THEME

4. The role of Healthwatch

[The planned discussion on sarcoidosis will be moved to another meeting due to JNE being delayed.]

- HFo discussed the **role of [Healthwatch Sheffield](#)**. Harry has recently joined the board, and shared some information about Healthwatch's role, with its focus on health needs of communities and making sure that the voices of patients are heard. Healthwatch Sheffield currently has projects in Richmond and Arbourthorne on loneliness and mental health. Healthwatch also ensure that services are supported by effective interpreters for patients whose first language is not English.

- IH spoke about how **Healthwatch is especially interested in amplifying the patient voice** in primary care. He attended a recent meeting with Healthwatch and other chairs of patient groups (Falkand House and Greystones) to explore ways to work with Healthwatch in linking with patient groups across the city.
- As part of these Healthwatch meetings, IH is currently undertaking a **mapping of primary care across Sheffield** to gather information about the extent of patient participation and engagement. This will be useful for bringing together active patient groups and supporting new groups in where there is limited patient representation.
- Two **new blogs about patient engagement** will shortly be available on the Healthwatch Sheffield website:
 - Ian Hodgson, with an overview of patient engagement and participation.
 - Andrew Sale (Co-chair, Greystones PPG) about setting up a PPG.

PRACTICE FOCUS

5. Practice update – CF & AS

- This is a **relatively quiet time of year**. A recent COVID-19 vaccine clinic for those over 75 and other vulnerable groups was attended by 300 people, with support from HPF. Local pharmacies also provide vaccines, and vaccines are available for care homes in the area.
- A **new 12-month GP contract** has recently been confirmed. This includes new key performance indicators (KPIs) linked with the [quality outcomes framework \(QOF\)](#). CF discussed a 2.5% increase in funding, which is a positive development but still inadequate, especially considering that Hollies' practice population continues to increase (currently around 11700 patients). There are also discussions to provide online access to all day. access to online consultations may broaden to all day access.
- Two **new receptionists** have been employed at HMC.

6. Two items from the last agenda were raised for more discussion:

- Comments about **pulse oximetry in people with darker skin tones** were addressed (raised at the last meeting). CF stated that patients needing this measurement would be seen face to face for holistic assessment. For people known to have (or be at risk of) respiratory problems, oxygen saturation is not the only metric used to determine whether further treatment is required. However, [this issue has been flagged](#) (especially since the COVID-19 pandemic) and remains an area requiring careful attention.
- The use of **fenugreek seeds** to reduce blood cholesterol levels was discussed further. Two papers were provided, [one with more information](#) about *fenugreek* and a [research paper](#).

7. The **2025 patient survey has now closed**, with over 600 responses.

- As noted at the previous meetings, survey respondents comprised **all patients attending the practice** from March 31-May 26, 2025. Online and paper versions of the survey were available.
- MW provided a **summary of the overall results**, which were generally favourable.
- The **next stage** is to analyse the free text responses, and several people volunteered to assist [Jean, Jeet, Howard, Linda C, Harry, Rory, and Sally]. Thank you!
- **IH will coordinate the process**, with a view to a draft report being available by the end of June 2025.

- **AS and practice staff were thanked** for their help identifying the cohort and contacting patients.

PATIENT FORUM FOCUS

8. E- group feedback

- Currently there are **78 active e-group members**.
- Howard Fry (HFy) is now E-group Coordinator.
- **Query** – a member asked about the best ways to remember to take medications if there are multiple tablets/treatments being taken. Suggestions from the group included a NPMAD box (available from pharmacies), and speaking with pharmacists to make sure that treatments are specific to their requirements.

9. HPF Newsletter, updates and next edition (MW)

- **Next newsletter** is due in September 2025.
- HFo will **prepare a short item about Healthwatch** to be included in the newsletter.
- IH will **prepare short item on SARS-CoV-2 variants** and the importance of COVID-19 vaccines (in preparation for the Autumn vaccine clinics).

10. Miscellaneous

- **Feedback from National Association of Patient Participation (NAPP)** – no specific updates, though this week is [Patient Participation Awareness Week](#), and members were encouraged to continue seeking new people for HPF. The two blogs linked about (item 4) link specifically to this.
- **Porter Valley Primary Care Network (PVPCN)** – as mentioned above, meetings are continuing between HPF, Falkland House PPG and Greystones PPG. Links are being established with patients in Rustlings Road and Carterknowle & Dore practices, to provide support in setting up their own PPGs. A further PVPCN patient meeting will be planned for Autumn 2025.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE FORUM MEETINGS

10. Any other business

- Thanks to **Linda Campbell** for AGAIN providing **delicious homemade cakes** for our meeting this evening!
- No other business.

Date of Next meeting

- Monday 28th July 2025 – Hollies MC 6-7.30pm [Theme: *Maternal health and breastfeeding support*]

Remaining HPF Meetings in 2025 [all Mondays @ 6pm]

- 6 October 2025 [Theme: *Diversity and health*, to reflect *Black History Month*]
- 1 December 2025 [Theme: *HIV and prevention*, to reflect *World AIDS Day*]

SF/IH

12 June 2025 [FINAL]