

Hollies Patients Forum (HPF)

Steering Group Meeting

Monday 3 August 2026, 6-7.30pm

Attendance

Linda Campbell (LC)
Craig Fishwick (GP Partner) (CF)
Ian Hodgson (Chair) (IH)
Sally Freeman (Notes) (SF)
Rory Freeman (RF)
John Nelson (JN)
Jean Nowell-Eyre (JNE)
Andy Smith (Practice Manager) (AS)
Michael Warboys (Newsletter) (MW)

Apologies for absence

Harry Frost
Howard Fry
Jeet Khosa
Linda Strudwick
Pauline Tryner

CORE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from five members and noted.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

3. Notes from previous meeting and action points

These were confirmed as correct and action points addressed in this meeting as appropriate.

CORE DISCUSSION THEME

4. Mental Health #2 [John Nelson]

John provided an excellent overview of addiction and recovery, support services in Sheffield, and nationally, and relevance to primary care. He shared details of his own experiences and the value of organisations such as [Project 6](#). He also highlighted the significance of primary care services that are knowledgeable and understanding of complex needs in the context of addiction.

CF confirmed that finding appropriate services for people with alcohol issues *and* mental health problems can be difficult (they are often provided by different parts of the health system).

The group thanked John for his honest and informed presentation. Further information about the issues we discussed can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

PRACTICE FOCUS [AS and CF]

5. Practice update

- **Lo's Pharmacy has now been taken over by Medwin Pharmacy.** New signage has been installed. Also, pharmacies are offering paediatric flu vaccinations in 2026.
- This week (August 3-7, 2026) is '**changeover week**', when medical trainees (and resident doctors, formerly 'junior doctors') throughout the NHS and primary care rotate into new posts. For Hollies Medical Centre (HMC), this means there will be

three new trainee starters, and up to five leaving the practice for other training posts.

- A new risk the practice has identified is **patients ordering medication independently online**, especially around concerns about whether they receive the correct medication and dose. Use of the NHS App is strongly encouraged to ensure patients order the right medication, and HMC has the highest uptake of the app's usage in the city.
- A **new phone system** is now being used at HMC. It allows access to many different services without needing to go via reception (though this is still possible). This also means reception staff can concentrate on more urgent issues or speak to those who cannot use online services.

As an **example of workload**, CF has today dealt with 70 requests from patients. He is concerned about what will happen during the winter when there is additional service demand.

- **Flu clinics** are being offered at HMC on Saturday 3rd and Saturday 10th October 2026. Volunteers from HPF will assist (IH, LC, JN, and SF for one or both), and messages will be sent to invite eligible patients, including children and pregnant women as appropriate.
- A **new practice nurse** has started work at the practice. HMC is now fully staffed.
- A **new (larger) sign** has been placed outside the practice building.
- The practice is soon to have a **new website**, likely to be launched in March 2027.

6. Update on GP contract negotiations

- In the light of the recent appointment of Yvette Cooper as the new Health secretary, the **BMA have paused industrial action** until she is familiar with the portfolio.

PATIENT FORUM FOCUS

7. E- group feedback (IH)

- There were no questions or feedback from the e-Group. There are currently 77 active members.

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

- The next newsletter is planned for September 2026.
- JNE (sarcoidosis) and JN (addiction) are writing columns, and there will be the usual updates from HPF's meetings.
- MW would like to hand the Newsletter over to a new Editor after Newsletter #10 (March 2027). MW would like to will work alongside a new editor on them for #10, so they can learn the aware of the editing process of producing and printing. HPF warmly thanks Michael for his outstanding work leading on these high-quality newsletters since #1 in 2022.

9. Miscellaneous (IH)

- Update on Porter Valley Primary Care Network (PVPCN): the recent [10 Year Health Plan for England: fit for the future](#) included plans to restructure primary care networks (PCNs) into 'Single Neighbourhood Providers (SNPs)', each covering roughly 50,000 patients. PVPCN is already close to this size, so would be unlikely to change significantly. In addition, given that there have been significant political changes during 2026, there is no indication at this time of plans to restructure PCNs.

- Update on other PPGs in PVPCN: attendees at the recent 'extended PPG' meeting (IH, LC, and JNE), held in Shirley House in July 2026, gave brief feedback from the event. The meeting included representatives from all six patient groups in the PVPCN and was seen as helpful and informative, especially around learning more about other practices in the area and patient group activity. Full notes from the meeting have been shared with all patient groups.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE FORUM MEETINGS

10. Any other business

- Thanks (again!) to **LC** for providing delicious cakes for the meeting and **AS** for supplying drinks.
- No other business.

Date of Next meeting

- **Monday 3 October 2026** [*Theme: Infectious disease and public health, to reflect the Autumn vaccine clinics - IH*]

Remaining HPF Meetings in 2026 [all Mondays @ 6pm]

- 5 October 2026 [*Theme: Infectious disease, reflecting the Autumn vaccine clinics – IH*]
- 7 December 2026 [*Theme: HIV and prevention, reflecting World AIDS Day – IH*]

SF/IH

17 August 2026 [FINAL]