**Minutes of Lower Gornal PPG Meeting on Wednesday 5th February 2025**

**Welcome from Chair.**

**Present:** Chris Bate (Vice Chair); Donella Bullas; Elizabeth Carrier; Farzana Follows; Russell Gardner (Practice Manager); David Gill (Chair), Sue Smith and Vikki Webb (Staff Rep), Mick Bowen

**Apologies:** Julie Pitt, Helen Newton, Amanda Bayliss

**Resignation:** The Chair informed the meeting that he had received a resignation from Hayley Wright, who was finding it difficult to balance increased work commitments with looking after a young family. The Chair had expressed his thanks to Hayley for her time as a valued member of the PPG and had said that if circumstances changed then she would be most welcome to resume her role on the PPG especially as she is undergoing further training as a paramedic.

**Review and Approve Minutes of Last Meeting**

There were no corrections required to the minutes and they were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

**Matters Arising from Minutes**

There are no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

**Practice Update**

The Practice Manager (PM) reported the following:

**Vaccinations**

Flu vaccinations – over 1200 to 65+ and 375 to patients under 65 years

Covid Vaccination – 1526 patients vaccinated including 109 housebound

RSV vaccination – 226 patients, just under 50% (50% of what?)

**Friends & Family Survey for January 2025**

Very Good – 176

Good – 33

Poor – 2

Very Poor – 2

Neither Poor nor Good - 4

Don’t Know – 1

**Staffing**

Recruitment process to replace Dr Zaman is underway as he is leaving on 13/2/25. Garrick will continue to act as locum for the foreseeable future.

After 12 years of service to our community Laura Bate (HCA) is leaving to pursue other career opportunities. Olivia Bowman, one of our receptionists is leaving to take up a position in the Pharmacy Team at Russell’s Hall Hospital. We wish them well.

With regard to online requests patients are asked to remember that the practice reviews requests within 2 days and it is not to be used for online appointments as has been happening on occasions.

KPIs (please advise what this stands for)

The conversion of the 2 rooms from administrative to clinical purposes has been signed off and has gone out to tender. The delay in the process has been due to some changes to the original design.

The PM reminded the meeting of the NHS 10 year plan to create multi-disciplinary ‘hubs’ where many services are provided under one roof and the intention is to use the facility at Ladies’ Walk for this purpose. Watch this space!

**Reports from Other Meetings**

The last Primary Care Network Meeting (PCN) at the Northway Practice of patient representatives was held on 7/1/25 and was attended by the Chair and Vice Chair. PPG members should receive minutes from that meeting in due course. David and Chris gave a verbal report from the meeting, including reports on digital inclusion and risk stratification which mainly focused on privacy issues around the shared care record. There followed a full discussion on aspects of both reports. Perhaps the most pertinent presentation came from a representative of The Dudley Stroke Association, an independent group that both supports families and assists patients in managing lifestyles following a stroke. Atrial fibrillation is the leading cause of severe strokes. Other factors are exercise, alcohol and smoking. It was suggested that someone from this organization comes to speak at a future health-related talk at Gornal Library.

**Website / Links with Library / Newsletter**

The organization of the ‘Dementia Friendly Talk’ to take place at Gornal Library will be finalized by Chris and David and should take place some time in April.

Could Sue and Chris provide further information for this section please?

**Issues from PPG Members**

I don’t have any notes relating to this so if you remember anything we discussed please let me know via an email

**Date of Next Meeting**

May 28th 2025 6pm.