

**Riverside Health Centre**

**Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

**Minutes**

**Meeting held on Monday 22nd September 2025 at 1300 at Riverside Health Centre**

**Present:**

**Chairperson :** Dierdre Conn **Practice Rep:** Hannah Mark **Secretary:** Ray Hall

**Members** Susan Wootten,Jill Farmer**,** Hugh Cronin,Zoe Cronin **,** Joan Brightwell**, J**ill Clarkson

1. **Welcome**

Deirdre welcomed all parties to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:**

Carmel Lo, Joy Baker, Gus Fidgett, Anne Walker

1. **Minutes held on 16th June 2025**

Accepted

1. **Matters Arising**

None forthcoming.

1. **Update from Deirdre on PPG Chairs Collaborative Meeting**

Deirdre updated the group on the PPG Chair Collaborative meetings she attended.

This included what activities and communications they were involved in and the proposed number of national ICB reduction and their Integration.

One PPG Group produced a newsletter which was sent to patients, libraries etc. A copy of this was circulated and it was was asked if Riverside might do the same and what would be the distribution process.

1. **SNEE Representatives**

At the next SNEE meeting on the 23/09 one member (SW) expressed a wish to be involved and at the following SNEE meeting (27/11)) a different member (RH) also hoped to attend if free,

1. **New Premises/Funding Update**

There was no new updates form the ICB, local authority or practice..

However it was commented on that if the Practice in Lawford, at present with only one GP, were to close for any reason (ie retirement etc) that many their patients might be reassigned to Riverside. This would make the already overcrowding situation even greater and possibly lead to even fewer services.

Three members of the PPG had been asked by the practice manager to become involved with the urgent need for new premises. The member involved with dealing with the council reported back that the council was unwilling to discuss matters with her. However a Local Council report on the topic of new premises is available if required.

The Chair gave a brief mention of another practice, Two Rivers, with the possibility of taking advice from themon how they progressed their new premises.

It was also suggested that the local MP for Manningtree could be approached on this matter but no definitive action was decided.

1. **News from the Practice**

Flu vaccine program dates were now available with patients being invited.

There was now a new nurse practioner as well as a paramedic being employed by the practice.

All previous vacancies were now staffed.

It was asked if COVID vaccinations were available but the group was told that there is no provision for them at the surgery.

1. **AOB**

The results of the Riverside Health.Ctr Survey were promulgated. This showed a response in terms of number of surveys sent out of 45% An overall experience of 76% was shown as Good.

It was put to the Group that although the present PPG Group showed about 21 members only a core of 6 or 7 regularly attended meetings and perhaps there should be another drive to attract more new members. This could be carried out as at last years flu vaccination program. However, apart from the ongoing saga of new premises there was little other activity for the PPG to get involved in. With this in mind it was thought that it may not be worthwhile at the present time..

Suggestions were sought as to what other activities the PPG could become involved in. This would require more involvement of the practice management.

1. The next meeting was scheduled for the same time on 24th November at the practice.

It had been hoped to hold a future meeting at the Hospice but due to travel practicalities for some members and staff this was deemed impractical.