

**Sele Medical Practice
Patient Reference Group
Notes of the meeting on
Wednesday 13 November at 4pm**

Present: Derek Bramley (DB), Bob Potter (BP), Anne Brooks (AB)

Apologies: Sheila Dance (SD), Stephen Prandle (SP), Joan McFarlane (JM), Jean Elphick (JE), Michael Elphick (ME), Hafsa Mannan (HM), Shannon Bell (SB)

Apologies/welcome to any new members

Apologies as above.

Notes of the last meeting (Friday 13 September 2019)

These were agreed as a true record.

DB sent his apologies for the Northumberland wide meeting in 19 September.

Practice Update

Members of the practice team had volunteered at the Tyne Green parkrun on Saturday 21 September. Members of the team have been participating in the run itself since the summer and are keen to encourage everyone to volunteer or participate.

Newsletters

The latest newsletter had been issued in early November. Any ideas for the next edition would be gratefully received.

Primary Care Network (PCN)

Hilary Snowdon attended to explain to the group about the responsibilities of the PCN.

HS explained that the PCN had been formed quickly though the idea of practices working collaboratively and at scale had been around for a few years having been mooted in the 'Five Year Forward View'.

The main drivers for the PCN are issues around recruitment and retention of GPs as there are not enough GPs coming on stream.

It is anticipated that PCN structures may lead to mergers and consequent efficiencies.

Nationally 25 practices are not part of any PCN; they have 'opted out'. Two of those are in our area. The financial implications of not being part of a PCN are not likely to be evident this year for those practices, but further down the line they may lose out on resource.

There followed a lively discussion whereby group members were assured that the PCN focus is to make the structure work for patients as well as practices.

Any other business

Healthwatch questionnaire – AB requested input to allow her to respond to a Healthwatch questionnaire on PPGs. Members present were able to offer helpful feedback.

BP mentioned that a new blood sugar device, Libre, is very helpful for enabling diabetics to understand the lag in the effect of eating on blood sugars.

Suggested Dates for 2020:

Friday 14 February at 10.30am

Wednesday 13 May at 4.00pm

Friday 14 August at 10.30am

Wednesday 11 November at 4.00pm