

Minutes of Patient Participation Group Meeting

2 September 2025



Present

Practice Manager	Jan McCulloch
Admin	Angeline Salani
	Ellie Harkness
PPG Members	10 Members
Guests	Grace Gimson – Holly Health

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The group were thanked for their ongoing consideration and support of the surgery.

1. Action Points

Remaining Actions from March as follows –

- Cervical Screening – Lauren to create video of smear process
- Carpark Access - add photo of parking space to website
- Prescription line message – update message 1 week before next closure for holiday/ PLT etc.

2. Holly Health

The Group welcomed Grace Gimson of Holly Health via Teams. Grace explained the premise of the app which is funded by NHS Ayrshire & Arran and aimed at anyone aged over 16, offering personalised coaching for the likes of mental wellbeing, nutrition and weight management, exercise and sleep. Each establishment involved has a personalised link. To sign up please follow the link <http://hly.app/barns-gp>.

Action – promote on social media and post QR code poster in consulting rooms

3. Cardiovascular Screening

The Practice is offering screening for heart disease at targeted events throughout September to patients aged 35 to 60 who have not been seen in Practice over the past three years. Cardiovascular disease is responsible for a high proportion of deaths in Scotland (25% in 2021).

These events will offer health checks including height, weight, waist circumference, BP, cholesterol checks and smoking advice. ASSIGN scores and Diabetes Risk Screen scores will be calculated for each patient attending.

To calculate your own diabetes risk, scan the QR code below:



Action – share Diabetes Risk Screen QR code to Facebook

4. Scottish Breast Screening Programme

The mobile breast screening unit is currently situated in Sainsbury's car park.

Women aged 50-70 are routinely invited to attend every 3 years. Barns patients will be called from 25 September.

The practice are informed of results and non-attendance. We will flag the notes of any patient who does not attend and encourage them to do so.

Action

- highlight notes of non-attenders for opportunistic encouragement
- share phone number for Breast Screening Service

5. Healthcare Improvement Scotland

A part of Scottish Government, the purpose of HIS is to enable the people of Scotland to experience the best quality health and social care.

The practice can have an impact on this in the following ways:

- Enable people to make informed choices about their care and treatment
- Help health and social care organisations to improve their services
- Provide evidence and share knowledge with services to help them improve
- Enable people to get the best out of the services they use
- Provide quality assurance that gives people confidence in NHS services
- Make the best use of resources to add value to the care people receive.

We have been invited to showcase the work of the PPG at a Teams event in November and a patient volunteer from the group has been requested.

6. Communication Friendly Environments

At the recent PLT training event, Jo Ford from Speech and Language Therapy services came in to speak to the admin team. The aim was to offer resources to help patients with communication difficulties.

Barns is the first GP Practice to get involved in the initiative and Jo has created some individualised picture boards for some of the common requests we encounter in Practice. These will be displayed in the waiting room and be available for use in both reception and consulting rooms.

The team were also given a demonstration of some simple Makaton sign language.

Action – display resources in reception and consulting rooms

7. Compass Drug and Alcohol Partnership

Compass “*Bringing Services Together Under One Roof*” is a service aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of people with multiple and complex needs.

Offering support to anyone resident in South Ayrshire and aged 16+ with drug and/or alcohol issues and their family/ friends, Compass is based in James Street. They can provide support and advice and a safe space. They can provide washing facilities, mobile phones and bring together services such as housing and benefit support. Many of the staff working there have first-hand experience of addiction struggles.

A couple of the team came into the Practice to highlight their services. It was a very informative presentation and the staff found it beneficial.

8. Therapets

The Practice have seen a rise in patients bringing dogs along to appointments claiming them to be therapy pets. The group were asked their thoughts on allowing this and what the implications may be on the comfort of other patients, hygiene, insurance, etc.

Whilst Guide Dogs for the blind are clearly identifiable and trained for service, there were some questions raised on the training of the so-called therapets.

Overall it seemed that these pets should not be allowed and the Practice will give the issue further consideration.

9. Our Future Health Scotland

Our Future Health is the UK’s largest ever health research programme. A collaboration of public, private and charity sectors working together with the aim of helping everyone live longer healthier lives.

Residents of Ayr can volunteer by completing an online questionnaire, providing blood and physical measurements at the clinic in Boots, Ayr High Street, and allowing access to their health records to help researchers

develop new ways of preventing, detecting and treating diseases.

Action – promote on social media/ waiting room

10. New GP Trainees

Dr Stoops, Dr Sundar and Dr Greir were acknowledged as the new rotation of GP trainees having joined the Practice in August.

Action – post on Facebook

11. Any Other Business

The practice was recently contacted by a patient about the possibility of having bike storage on the grounds. The group agreed this would be welcomed and the landlord will be contacted for consideration.

Action – add to agenda for next tenant's meeting

12. Date of Next Meetings

- **Tuesday 3 June 2026**
- **Tuesday 1 September 2026**