

## Minutes of Patient Participation Group Meeting

3 March 2026



### Present

Practice Manager	Jan McCulloch
Admin	Angeline Salani Ellie Harkness
PPG Members	5 Members

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Before we started, Jan was congratulated on her award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List.

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
- Practice Stats – Angeline working on January 2026, for circulation very soon

### **2. Breast Screening**

It was discussed that uptake of screening from Barns patients remained at a steady level of 73% attendance for the 2025/26 round of screening.

Women aged 50-70 are invited 3 yearly and the practice flags the notes of non-attenders to encourage opportunistically.

The mobile unit is currently situated in Sainsbury's car park. Access for patients with mobility issues was queried. Also queried was the incidence of younger patients being diagnosed with breast cancer.

### **Action**

- Check with screening services where patients with mobility issues are asked to attend.

- Run searches on age groups of patients diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Discuss appropriateness of teaching self-checking at other appointments.

### **3. Cardiovascular Screening**

The Practice offered 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 offered health checks including height, weight, waist circumference, BP, cholesterol checks and smoking advice. ASSIGN scores and Diabetes Risk Screen scores were calculated for each patient who attended. A further event was offered on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February and was extremely successful, with a further event having been created for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

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



### **4. Don't Forget the Patients**

At the last meeting we were looking for a volunteer to help showcase the work of the PPG at a Teams event offered by Health Improvement Scotland.

Alison kindly stepped up and presented alongside Jan and Angeline to a delegation of around 90 people. During the twelve years our PPG has been in place there have been several developments and a slide was shown highlighting some of the leaflets and improvements made in Practice thanks to the work of the group.

## **5. HPV Self Sampling**

Public Health Scotland are running a pilot initiative in a bid to improve cervical screening rates. As Barns is considered to have the largest population in areas of deprivation in South Ayrshire, we have been chosen to take part.

Launching on 15 March, patients aged 30 years and over who have not been screened in the last six years will be invited to provide a swab for HPV testing. Anyone with a positive result or insufficient sample will then be invited to come in for a smear test.

## **6. Prescription Ordering Times**

Prescriptions can be ordered 24 hours a day by various means. A recent audit has shown that 41% of prescriptions are processed via the dedicated prescription line open between 9.30am and 12pm Monday to Friday. At all other times, prescriptions can be ordered online via the Practice Website, voicemail message or in person. Prescriptions ordered before 12pm will be ready after 3pm the same working day. Pharmacy collection times vary therefore patients are encouraged to contact their chosen pharmacy for turnaround times.

The group agreed that the service provided is suitable and reliable.

It was discussed that with the number of new patients registering, perhaps they were not aware of the different ordering methods.

### **Action**

- Consider reintroducing New Patient Packs with all patient information leaflets.
- Add to welcome email

## **7. Digital Patient Access**

It was discussed that Scotland is behind England when it comes to digital access to patient information.

MyCare.Scot is launching on 15 April 2026 and will give patients access to flu and covid vaccine records, prescription information and allergy data.

In order to access this information patients will be invited by NHS Scotland and provided with an access code.

## **8. 75 Years of Barns**

The Practice celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. From its origins in George Street to the current premises there have been lots of developments and many faces.

The group discussed ideas for commemorating the milestone.

## **9. Kings New Year's Honours**

Jan's award of a British Empire Medal for services to Practice Management and Education was noted as a great achievement for both Jan and the Practice as a whole. A party will take place for the medal presentation to which some of our original PPG members have been invited.

## **10. Any Other Business**

- **Hospital referrals**

A recent workshop with the Referral Management Team was discussed. The practice sends around 550 referrals per month. We discussed the importance of keeping contact details up to date for hospital referral. We highlighted the NHS A&A Outpatient Waiting Times website for guidance. Although this has previously been shared on social media, the group were unaware of it. We discussed how the waiting times might compare with other health boards.

- **Share website with patients when they are being referred**
- **Check waiting times for other health boards**

- **Connect South Ayrshire**

We highlighted the Connect South Ayrshire online calendar. Our PPG meetings are included in the calendar.

- **Email dates for upcoming meetings**

- **Walk-in Centres**

Walk-in Centres have been in the news recently and one has been confirmed for East Ayrshire. The centres are hoped to reduce ease pressure and offer appointments at a time to suit patients unable to get appointments at their surgery. Further updates will be made on the success of the GP led clinics when available.

- **Dog Tie-up Point**

There seems to be an increase in the number of dogs being brought to the premises whilst owners pop in to pick up prescriptions etc. A designated area for tying up dogs was suggested and will be discussed with the landlord.

- **Discuss possibility of designated dog area with landlord**

## **11. Date of Next Meetings**

- **Tuesday 1 September 2026**
- **Tuesday 2 March 2027**