**MINUTES OF THE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 8th MAY 2025**

**COMMENCING AT 2pm**

Attendees: David Hartley

Vanessa Stockley

Eddy Oxley

Harry McLoughlin

Dr Catherine Hart (Practice)

Jayne Gelder (Practice) – Chair / Minutes (JG)

Apologies: Ken McCrea

Ashvin Patel

Alex Hilton

JG opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Healthwatch Lancashire

Healthwatch Lancashire visited the surgery on Monday 15th April 2024 and the reports from this visit together with the revisit of 3rd February 2025 were handed out to the group. The group read through the reports, which were then discussed in the meeting. The reports were seen to be very positive with the recommendations for improvement having been acted upon.

The question was asked as to where the reports are published. JG said she would find out and report back at the next meeting.

Medical Students – Update

Dr Hart explained to the group that we have been a training practice since September 2024 and that the medical students who we currently train are all in their final year at Lancaster University. Dr Hart explained that each student is with us at the practice for seven weeks and is fully supervised by either herself, Dr Craghill or Dr Challa.

Dr Hart advised that even though the medical student has a clinic of their own, the patients they see have first been triaged by the duty doctor and deemed suitable to be seen by the student. The patients are also seen by the supervising GP during the same consultation.

Dr Hart referred to the possibility that in the future we may also take third year medical students and post graduate students. Dr Hart confirmed that the surgery is remunerated for being a training practice.

Phlebotomy Service

JG explained that the phlebotomy service no longer has clinics at the surgery. JG also advised that the hospital will no longer accept urgent requests for blood tests from the GP and the hospital advise that patients will need to either have the blood sample taken at the surgery or travel to Preston Healthport in Fulwood. JG handed out the details of the healthport that we have been provided with from the hospital.

JG advised that we have taken on a new member of staff, Chris, who is doing several blood clinics every week and with more available appointments than before. Patients will therefore still be able to have blood taken at the surgery.

FeNO Testing

Dr Hart explained that this is a breathing test and a blood test for asthma and COPD which has been used in respiratory departments in hospitals for some time. Dr Hart explained that this can be used in place of a spirometry test as an alternative/adjunct to spirometry testing in diagnosis, i.e. is a diagnostic tool. FeNO testing is done by our nurses, and the results are then passed to the GP who can determine next steps if necessary.

AOB

It was raised that the surgery noticeboards are very busy and seem to have too much information. JG explained that we must display certain information and cannot therefore remove any of the documents displayed.

The question was asked as to why the surgery closes for training. Dr Hart explained that this is a statutory requirement, and all surgeries must comply.

The meeting was advised that x-rays taken at Euxton hospital are not able to be seen by another hospital.

A concern was raised about the number of weeks wait for a routine appointment to see a GP of choice. The meeting was advised that if a patient prefers to see a particular doctor, sometimes a longer wait is unavoidable given appointment availability and annual leave, etc. However, if a patient is happy to see the first available GP, the waiting time will generally be considerably less given the triage system in place.

Regarding the area where the pharmacy had been in the surgery, it was asked whether the surgery have any plans to use the space. It was explained that we are unable to use this currently as the pharmacy still rent the space and it would not be financially viable for the surgery to buy the pharmacy out of the lease. Dr Hart advised that the lease still has several years left to run before we can take the space back without any financial penalties.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th September 2025 commencing at 2pm at St John’s Church Hall.