

Minutes

Almondsbury PPG Summer Meeting

7 July 2025 18:00

Attendees

Nina Tilton (Chair), Christine Thomas (secretary), Paula Miles, Dr Jenny Lockey, John Adams, Deb Davies, Mike Farmer, Pat Hinton, Maria McNally, David Rayfield, Pat Rayfield, , Helen Sanday (deputy chair), Richard Spence, Dave Talbot, Paula Vicary, Ed Vicary

Apologies

Ed Vicary, Alison White, Leona Roberts, Zain Harper, Sue Hewson, Fiona Phipps, Jackie Sanders (Pilning PPG), Kelly Cole (Hanham practice manager)

Guests

Emily Knight, Tony Spreadbury (Hanham PPG),

Welcome, apologies and membership changes

Nina welcomed everyone, including our guests.

Alison has tendered her resignation to the group. She has been a great member of the group, and did a great job as a secretary for a number of years. Our thanks are given to her, and we wish her all the best for the future.

BNSSG Medicines Waste Campaign – Emily Knight

Principal Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist (South Gloucestershire Locality)

Emily works for the integrated care board (ICB) looking at medicine optimisation and promoting the safe and optimal use of medicines in our area. It encompasses medicine safety and guidelines on use, as well as cost optimisation.

The estimation of the cost of medicine waste is about £300m across the UK. Medicines need to be disposed of safely by taking to the pharmacy for incineration.

The BNSSG campaign aims to reduce medicine waste by encouraging people to only order the medicines that we need.

Key messages:

- Only order what you need
- Keep medications safe
- Check order on collection from pharmacy/delivery by courier

Campaign plan

- Run over the summer – “only order what you need”. Keep medications safe will be run later in the year.
- Multi-channel public campaign
- Resource pack for every GP practice and pharmacy

How can we help?

- Engagement with the social media campaign – BNSSG social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, X)
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- Spreading messaging by word of mouth – friends, neighbours, community groups (Emily will provide some material)

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the Spring meeting were approved.

Action Plan

The Action Plan was reviewed and updated.

Practice Update

Almondsbury / Pilning Merge:

- Clinical system (EMIS) has now been merged.
- Patients now have the option to select either site for an appointment of their choice.
- Some issues for Pilning patients around patient online access (e.g. repeat prescriptions, access to online medical record. Practice is working hard to overcome these problems – essentially all patients need to be treated as a new online patient, with new setup.
- Some members reported that letters for each family member were received instead of one per household and letters in parts of Lower Almondsbury arrived after the cut-off time.

Anima

- Hanham Health has now introduced the option of self-booking links for routine appointments. Patients who are unable to use these links can continue to telephone the surgery where our reception team can help.
- The majority of appointments are now within 2 weeks of request.

FLU / COVID Autumn planning will begin very soon, with first clinics expected October. Further information, including eligibility criteria to follow in due course.

Staff News:

- Zain Harper is leaving in August. Role to be covered internally whilst HH partners consider if/how to replace.
- Catherine Lockett-Exell – new Receptionist / Business Support Associate.
- Baby news - Cacey Challenger – Receptionist recently had a baby girl.
- Rhian Green now trained in spirometry offering this service across the PCN.
- Practice is now offering Teledermatology appts with Summer Johnson and Karen Jones.
- Dr Luke van Twest will sadly not be returning to Almondsbury – Luke was a PCN GP and he and his family have decided to return home to Australia.

Weight Management:

- News recently that the weight loss injections will be rolled out via GP Surgeries.
 - This rollout of treatment will be phased over a number of years and is not readily available for patients with no underlying health conditions.
 - Specific eligibility criteria:
 - *BMI of 40 or above (or 37.5 for patients of South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean ethnic backgrounds)*
 - *plus 4 health conditions including: High blood pressure, raised cholesterol, obstructive sleep apnoea, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes.*
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GP Surgeries are also waiting for confirmation of 'wrap around care' availability – e.g. help from other services with nutrition and lifestyle.

Hannam Health update

The new patient access model has been introduced. (At Hannam when people needed a routine appointment, there was a delay in between people being told they needed an appointment and it being arranged). It's all self booking now, and people are getting routing appointments quicker (typically 2 weeks)

Standing item - Impact of proposed service improvements in primary and secondary care – impact on patients, GPs and practices

The GMC Local Medical Committee (LMC), is working proactively to ensure that if work is moved from secondary care to GP surgeries, that it also comes with appropriate funding. Keep on the agenda and perhaps consider how the new NHS 10 year plan impacts practices.

A.O.B.

Future Meetings

2025 meetings:	Autumn	Tuesday	21.10.25
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The meeting closed at 7:30 pm