



<https://www.districtpatientsgroup.org/>

**Minutes of the meeting held at the
Community Room, Morrisons, Wellington Road, Burton, DE14 on
Thursday 23rd October 2025, between
13.00 and 15.00**

1. Present

JB	Vice Chair/Secretary East Staffs District Patient Engagement Group, (Tutbury Patient Forum)
CR	(Bridge PPG)
RB	(Trent Meadows PPG)
CD	(Trent Meadows PPG)
SG	(Yoxall PPG)
DM	(Bridge PPG)
DB	Healthwatch Staffordshire
DM	East Staffs Primary Care Community Manager

2. Guest Speaker

VMcT	Specialist Dyslexia Services
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3. Welcome

The Vice Chair/Secretary, JB, welcomed everyone to the meeting including our guest speaker VMcT of Specialist Dyslexia Services. He then informed those present of the recent sad sudden death of the Chairs husband. He had sent a card and flowers from the District Group and attended the funeral on behalf of the District Group. He then read out a card that SAR had sent to the District Group. Those present were stunned by the news and asked that their condolences be passed onto SAR.

4. Apologies

Vice-Chair/Secretary, JB, has received the following apologies:

SAR	Chair East Staffs District Patient Engagement Group, (Tutbury Patient Forum)
KL	(Peel Croft PPG)

JW	(Barton PPG)
SMcK	(Trent Meadows PPG)
DH	(Tamworth PPG)
JW	(Barton PPG)
BJW	(Tutbury Patient Forum)
IJ	(Carlton Group PPG)
EM	(Alrewas PPG)
LT	(Carlton Group PPG)
RB	East Staffs PCN Research & Support Manager
IL	Support Staffordshire Community Officer, Burton on Trent District

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2025

No issues were raised, and the minutes were accepted as a true record.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There are no matters arising that will not be covered by the agenda.

7. Action Log

(i). Speakers for 2025

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care Board.

Action still ongoing

(ii). Wheelchair Issue

Action Update: I am pleased to inform you that on the 21st of October the resident, who has been without a operational wheelchair since January, had a brand new updated wheelchair delivered. The person involved wishes to sincerely thank everyone who has been involved in making this possible.

(iii). Additional Patient Representation at the District Meetings

The Vice Chair indicated that arrangements still must be made to visit Alrewas, Rocester and Gordon Street surgeries they were on his agenda. Another way of promoting the group would be having the opportunity to speak to both the East Staffs Primary Care Network and Practice Managers monthly meetings. RB, East Staffs PCN Research & Support Manager, said she would raise this at both August monthly meetings.

Action Update. Due to summer holidays the meetings did not take place in August so the request will roll over to the September/October meetings.

Action Update 21st October Still outstanding.

(iv). No Smoking at Queens

A patient story raised the issue of people smoking around the entrance to Queens hospital and the Trust response. It was agreed to get further clarification on the topic.

Action Update: The Vice Chair has checked the Trusts Policy and it states the following.

Smoking tobacco and cigarettes at any of our hospitals is not allowed. This applies to all patients, visitors and staff.

Whilst you are here, please do not smoke anywhere inside or outside our hospital buildings.

If you are a patient at UHDB and you would like support to stop smoking, please speak to your clinical team. We can also talk to you about the options for helping you if you need to stay in hospital.

This and the comments raised in response to the patient's letter to PALS will now be taken up with the Trust.

Action still outstanding

(v). Vaccinations

The winter Flu and COVID vaccinations are due to start in October.

There was confusion about eligibility criteria and the Vice Chair agreed to make enquiries and then inform everyone. Update. This action was carried out and an email sent to everyone. **Action closed**

No further actions

8. Update from DM, East Staffordshire Primary Care Community Manager

Due to having to attend another meeting DM had requested that she be able to give her update earlier in the agenda.

- **Community Events Attended**

- Shobnall Family Fun Day in August. Had a stand and handed out general information and fruit /veg to promote low-carbohydrate eating. In addition, compost pots, etc, to assist in teaching children to grow their own vegetables, etc. Went well – 400 health information bags issued along with 400 herb pots designed and planted by the children and 400 fruit and veg themed colouring / quiz packs with crayons handed out.

- In September had Living Well in Winter events were held at Branston Golf Club and Balance Street, Uttoxeter. This, in conjunction with the MSK Team, who did talks and several local organisations who had stands. Feedback was extremely positive from both the Patients who

attended and the Exhibitors. JB confirmed this as he was there representing the Diabetes Patient Network and was one of the best events he had attended.

· On October 16th had a stand at the Tutbury Practice and Patient Forum Health and Wellbeing Event. Excellent networking and community footfall.

- **Lung Screening**

5 GP surgeries in Burton took part in phase one. The relevant patient cohort was first telephoned and then, if thought necessary, a screening appointment was made. Three more surgeries to be invited for phase two, starting November. This is part of a National Programme with full rollout by 2030. East Staffordshire is one of the first areas for this campaign. Phase Three, early 2026, will be the villages. The Screening was first known as Lung Cancer Screening, but the word Cancer was dropped as both emotive and the screening could detect other conditions as well.

- **Spiro Hub**

Continuing to support local surgeries. Now have 3 fully trained nurses and are now looking at other health issues the test may show.

- **Child Immunisation**

Low uptake of the necessary vaccinations. This is especially true with the Eastern European and South Asian Communities. A research nurse will be working for the next few months, with a number of practices and patients to better understand how we may increase uptake across the PCN.

- **Women's Health Hub**

Two surveys have gone out to 30,000 people, and to date, 7,800 have been received back. The surveys have been sent via text from the surgeries, one for women aged 18-50 and one for 51-75.

The survey includes bowel screening and breast screening. Comments raised by the Vice Chair JB that bowel screening is not automatic after 75, and likewise breast screening after 70. However, you can request screening and will get it. DB, Healthwatch indicated that a county-wide survey is also being sent out for women's health

DM indicated the same surveys were being carried out in Tamworth, Lichfield and Burntwood.

- **Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARCs)**

Some surgeries offer this, some don't. New hubs are being set up from November, across the PCN to provide equity of service for patients.

- **Local Improvement Framework, L.I.F**

An incentive from the ICB to provide £100K per year for 3 years for each specific area of Staffordshire. This started in the summer, and in the East, the initial business proposal put forward was for certain wards within Burton and the topic of obesity. The ICB paused the rollout in August but hopefully will restart in November with the business proposal being heard.

- **COVID/FLU Vaccinations**

Currently, 8500 people have received vaccinations either via Pirelli, some GP Surgeries, Pharmacies, and the Care Home sector. This year, the communication from the NHS has been dismal, causing issues for staff when people come for their vaccinations to be told not eligible. Nine GP Practices are now doing their own vaccination clinics to prevent wasted trips by their patients.

- **Sports England**

Meetings have been held involving several local organisations to access a £3M pot of money for the local East Staffordshire Community.

The most recent discussed:

Ways of Working – how do we want to work together?

Behaviours/approaches

Overview of the Development Award Bid

Overview of the data we hold so far

Identification of priority areas/communities within East Staffs

Summary and next steps

DM had to then leave to attend a further meeting.

Everyone present thanked her for a comprehensive report

9. Presentation from VMcT of Specialist Dyslexia Services

The Vice Chair introduced Vicky to everyone who then gave the following verbal presentation:

Background

Vicky brings 16 years of teaching experience in secondary education, working closely with children and young people with additional educational needs. As a qualified SENDCo with the National SENCO qualification, she has developed innovative strategies to support students facing learning challenges.

She holds an Associate Membership of the British Dyslexia Association (AMBDA) and a current SpLD Assessment Practising Certificate (APC),

enabling her reports to be used for Disabled Students' Allowance applications. Additionally, Vicky is a member of PATOSS and holds Accredited Teacher Status. She is fully enhanced DBS-checked and carries professional indemnity insurance, ensuring the highest standards of professionalism and care.

Vicky's understanding of dyslexia is enriched by her personal journey as a parent of children with additional needs, coupled with her academic and professional expertise. She is committed to helping others recognise their unique strengths and achieve success. Beyond assessments, she also works as a specialist tutor, supporting students with specific learning difficulties to thrive and build confidence.

Vicky is located in Lichfield, West Midlands. Vicky welcomes clients from surrounding areas, including Birmingham, Stratford, Solihull, Warwick, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Derby, Sutton Coldfield, Cannock and Tamworth. Most assessments are carried out at her home in Lichfield, but she may be able to travel to your home or your child's school. Contact her to explore the best option for you.

Vicky's combination of qualifications, teaching experience, and personal insight allows her to provide a truly holistic approach. With her understanding of dyslexia from all angles—academic, professional, and personal—Vicky is committed to helping individuals with dyslexia navigate their challenges and build a bright and successful future.

After introductions, Vicky gave details on how dyslexia is viewed today. Dyslexia is classed as a neurodevelopmental condition by the NHS, along with Autism Spectrum Condition, ADHD and Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) to name a few. However, as Dyslexia is managed by the education system rather than the NHS, there is no support available from the Health sector. This means there is little or no non-private funding for the assessment of dyslexia available for people. It is however in the interest of GPs to be aware of dyslexia and signpost on for it, as, if undiagnosed, it can impact a person's mental health which then will require NHS intervention.

As a person goes through the early education system, there are many barriers until they reach University, where allowances and assistance is greater due to more funding. Before that stage, without a proper, detailed

assessment that people have to pay for, there is little in the way of support in many schools due to pressure on the education system. Even with the diagnosis in place, some educational establishments can be responsive in giving the necessary support, whilst others cannot. Another barrier, of course, is having adequately trained staff within the ever-pressured educational system.

However, the most beneficial aspect of having the proper assessment is for the individual and their family, as it explains their struggles and identified strength to celebrate, as well as give them guidance for their education moving forwards and strategies that they can use to succeed. Gave an example of an 18year old she has worked with, and the situation with her own child.

There followed an open discussion where the members present indicated that an awareness of dyslexia and where to signpost individual and parents should be inherent among GPs, particularly given the co-occurrence between the conditions. There was discussion as to why dyslexia was not treated in the same way as other neurodevelopmental conditions, such as ADHD and Autism Spectrum Condition.

The following areas where this may be possible to start discussions were as follows:

- MPFT Talking Therapies
- Burton Mind
- Public Health Staffordshire County Council, Tilly Flanagan
- The Children's Programme Board

DB, Healthwatch agreed to follow this up and pass on Vickys' details.

Vicky was very appreciative of this support and thanked everyone for the opportunity to come and explain what she does. She accepted the invitation to stay for the remainder of the meeting. She then handed out information to all those present.

10. Patient Stories

(i). Experience at Queens Hospital

The Vice Chair informed the members that he had reason to visit A&E, Queens, on two occasions since the last meeting following the admission of his 97-year-old mother via the Ambulance Service. Her care within A&E had been exemplary and although the care after

A&E had resulted in a complaint. However, PALS had been informed to pass their positive comments on to the staff concerned. The improvement in care following the issues we raised in May is encouraging and reinforced the changes we had been informed about by NS of Queens at the last District meeting. The purpose of the complaint was the poor care after A&E, complete breakdown in communication between hospital and patient, and the chaotic discharge procedure. The Vice Chair informed the members that he had recently had a face-to-face meeting with UHDB to discuss the complaint that he had submitted. This was a positive meeting with the following outcomes:

- The positive comments on A&E outlined in the original complaint had been passed on to the individuals concerned and he had received confirmation of this.
- There was a discussion around discharge not having a Doctors name above the patient's bed. This is because when sent to discharge the patient is "medically fit". It was agreed that at times, as stated in the complaint there is not always the case. The medical team on the inpatient ward are then informed and it comes back under their jurisdiction although the patient may be down the list, not ideal.
- It was agreed that communication was poor between medical staff and the patient, and this has been discussed with the team.
- The Pysio has been spoken to regarding no name badge or introduction on who he was when speaking to the patient's family.
- The whole procedure of arranging care packages was discussed as this is not done via the discharge team but the discharge transformation team.

Finally, the Discharge Team Manager has recognized that there is little or no information on discharge for patients and their families. She is designing a leaflet and JB asked if the District Group could see the draft and comment from a patient viewpoint. This was readily accepted and when received will be distributed to the District patient representatives for feedback. This was done w/c 27th October.

In addition, the Manager and her opposite number in the Integrated Discharge Team, responsible for care packages, etc, were invited to the informal District Meeting on the 4th of December. Finally, JB gave his permission for the full complaint to be used at the Departmental Training Day.

(ii). SG, Yoxall PPG

A neighbour had a bad fall. The ambulance had to be called, and they had to be taken to Queens. The overall treatment was superb.

(iii). RB Trent Meadows PPG

It has taken 16months to get and see Dermatology. At long last has got a letter and had to complete a telephone assessment with someone from Yorkshire. Needs to be seen and appointment made for the 29th October.

(iv). DM, Bridge PPG

Had cardiac surgery in March. Was due a follow up appointment in July but received nothing. Has contacted the hospital and was told they were so far behind they couldn't give a follow up date for an appointment.

11. PPG Updates

The following reports were distributed before the meeting.

Tutbury PPG. Update from JB

- Last meeting held on 17th September.
- Usual feedback from the Practice Manager.
- Presentation given on the feedback from the patient survey, that recently took place. As previously mentioned, it was conducted for the first time via Google Forms with patients receiving the survey via text. The survey produced 1002 responses and was very representative
- Gave feedback from the District Group, Diabetes Patient Network, and the changes within the ICB.
- Quiz night was held on Friday 19th September and as usual was successful. The next one is on the 21st of November, and everyone is invited.
- Continue to hold the monthly Dementia afternoons within the surgery, run by the Alzheimer's Group.
- The Trent and Dove Coffee morning took place on Thursday 25th of September.
- The Prostate talk took place on the 25th of September, good attendance and the 2nd Menopause evening took place on October 2nd. Again, good attendance.
- Talk on Prostate has been arranged for 25th September.
- The Patient Group and Tutbury Practice held their annual Health and Wellbeing Event on 16th of October. 32 organisations took part and there good attendance from the public. Excellent feedback received.

Yoxall PPG, Update from SG

- We held our last meeting on September 24th at the surgery. Although technically we were not quorate, (4 members rather than 5 as stated in our Constitution), it was decided to continue with the meeting. We were low on numbers due to ill health and holidays but as we had to postpone our July meeting, we thought it was important to at least have some discussion.
- As no one present was prepared to take over the role of Secretary, it was decided that members would take it in turns to do the minutes.
- Members of the group are volunteering to help at surgery 'Flu' clinics being held 2 afternoons a week over 3 weeks in October. Reception staff have explained to those attending, that only those eligible will receive the Covid vaccine.
- Our plans for a Men's Health Event will be discussed in more detail at our next meeting in November.
- One of our members has agreed to write a short update about our group and any upcoming activities to go on the Surgery website, in the village magazine and village noticeboards every 8 weeks.
- Hopefully in November we will have a full complement of members.

(iii). Trent Meadows PPG, CD

- The PPG has a new Chair and has had one meeting to date. A Newsletter has been written and distributed and has been well received.
- In 2026 the PPG are thinking of having speakers remotely via ZOOM. This has worked well in Kidsgrove.
- The new triage system will be operational on Monday 3rd of November and is in line with the instructions from NHS England and the Department of Health.

12. Update from the Support Staffordshire

Due to illness IL was unable to attend the meeting. He had informed the Vice Chair that there weren't any updates, except to say that the Healthy Communities project, IL has been involved with for the past two years is now winding down and they are working on the evaluation and will be sending out a report in the future.

13. Update from Healthwatch Staffordshire

- To date there is no information available regarding the long-term future of Healthwatch. It is business as usual for now although we are inevitably losing some staff and contingency plans are in place to continue the work.
- The work on the Mental Health and Gynaecological Surveys continues and we have supported the District PPG with some engagement funding to assist in the distribution. We have some interest from Keele University Medical School in our Mental Health work with the potential to collaborate on a wider piece of research currently under development. I am currently engaging with many mental health groups across SE Staffs.
- I have completed a report explaining NHS Dental Services in Staffordshire that is being published this week. I have enclosed a copy with this report. My intention is to get this translated into Urdu, Punjabi and Polish to enable wider access and inclusion.
Prior to issue the report was shared for comment and accuracy with the Dental Network, the Clinical Director of MPFT Community Dental Service and the Primary Care Managers at the ICB. It has also been presented to the ICS Children and Young People's Programme Board and the Children's Forum.
- Healthwatch is represented on the ICB group reviewing the NHS Wheelchair Service which is shortly due for retendering. We are ensuring that patient voices are heard in that group.
- We attended the Tutbury PPG event last week and had good interest all afternoon. We will be attending an event at Branston Pavillion on 12 November designed to bring adult Social Care and Health together with the VCSE to build up contacts and collaboration across the locality.
- UHDB Issues; The Royal Derby Hospital Multi story Car Park is due to open on 6 November which may ease the parking situation. A final completion date for the A&E alterations at Burton is still awaited as well as the long-term siting of the blood testing rooms.
- There has been some patient confusion about entitlement to Covid Jabs this winter but that now seems to be resolved.

Dave Bassett (he/him)

Engagement Officer – Southeast Staffordshire

14. Further Updates

The following further updates were sent prior to the meeting.

(i). East Staffordshire and Surrounds Diabetes UK Patient Network

- All the planned face-to-face meetings within East and Southeast Staffordshire that were planned for early October took place. As previous, the Chair was accompanied too the meetings with a colleague who has expressed an interest in assisting with the work that the network does. The Virtual meeting scheduled for September also took place with a presentation from,
Helen Horwell
Quality & Engagement Lead
Wellbeing and Recovery College
Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
- The report for the conference held on June 5th at the Pavilion, Branston Golf and Country Club, entitled "Diabetes Patient Care, A New Dawn", has been completed and been widely circulated.
- The Chair continues to attend the monthly MPFT East Staffs Performance & Quality Assurance Forum Open Meeting at the beginning of each month.
- Attended the Get Well for Winter Event at Branston Golf and Country Club on 24th September.
- Attended a Diabetes Study Day for GPs Nurses and other Health Care Professionals in Stoke on 4th of October

(ii). East Staffordshire Primary Care Network, Research Update:

• ***West Midlands Cancer Alliance – Pancreatic Cancer Pilot Study***
Due to start in November. Currently we are creating our delivery plan with the excellent help of Lucy Minshull (Howbeck Health) to develop the plan. Me and Richard Hibell are now completing this and meeting every two weeks to discuss progress. Richard will be leading this study from a clinical process point of view.

• *SCREEN - SD Study*

Invites to participate have been sent to patients at Gordon Street (over 200 invites) and Peel Croft (160 invites). Study for those practices with populations of deprived patients. Looking at the feasibility and accessibility of screening patients in Primary care to gather health data. Fits in with Health Inequalities project. Patients invited to complete questionnaire to gather data around social circumstances.

- **ACCLAIM**

Now complete and further participation no longer needed. The Research bus visited Uttoxeter to deliver the study to consented patients and was great success. Worked well with MPFT, first collaboration together.

- **RAPID Eczema Study**

Looking at improving lives of patients who suffer from Eczema. Study delivered as a PCN utilising the collaboration agreement – 5 practices selected All Saints, Northgate, Yoxall, Winshill and Barton.

- **INDIGO**

Questionnaire study inviting patients who have been diagnosed with cancer in the last 12 months re how they feel about quality of life.

Balance Street, Peel Croft, Yoxall, Carlton Street invites completed

- **SAFE-D**

Invites completed for all EMIS Practices via the EMIS Recruit Portal Dr Kulambi has worked hard on obtaining a contact within secondary care regarding referrals for MRI scan for patients found to be requiring one. Dr Kulambi is PI for the study for Burton Hub, Dr Poonian is PI for the Uttoxeter Hub. No work for Practices as this is carried out by the Research team. Patients are sent a link to study information and for booking blood tests at the Hub Practices.

- **ACES Study**

Study looking at testing home sample collection kits for Cervical screening. Patients invited to request a sampling kit to collect sample at home. This does not replace screening done at GP surgery. Practices asked to display a poster promoting the study.

The study team have seen excellent engagement with this study, to the extent that they have increased the enrolment number from the original 500 participants to accommodate the higher level of interest.

They currently have enrolled 720 participants, of which 276 indicated in the survey that they heard about the study through primary care sites (268 from GPs). We are finding out numbers for East Staffs.

- **MEDAL Study**

Abbots Bromley due to open this study soon. Study is looking at low back pain and titrating medication up rather than down for those patients who have acute low back pain.

- **GENES & HEALTH**

Slow burn, still trying to obtain recruits via ethnic groups and organisations. One of the world's largest community based genetic studies, aiming to improve the health among people of Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage by analysing the genes and health of volunteers.

Volunteers are asked to provide a saliva sample. Participation takes around 30 minutes.

- **Bids**

I have secured full funding for my role until March 2027.

Still waiting to hear about our very own Research Bus

Primary Care Commercial Research Delivery Centre bid was unsuccessful, and we have obtained feedback. I am told that none of the bids submitted for the West Midlands region were successful.

- **Collaborative Working**

Continue to develop our relationship with MPFT and the CRDC, looking at our first collaborative research project around children with a cow's milk allergy

Rachael Brown

East Staffordshire PCN Research & Support Manager

(iii). Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board

The Vice Chair informed the members that Simon Whitehouse has been confirmed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Integrated Care Board, (ICB), Cluster for NHS Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent and NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. The details had been circulated, and further hard copies were available at the meeting.

14. Any Other Business

There were no items raised

15. Date of Next Meeting.

The Vice Chair, JB, informed the members present that the next District meeting will be on Thursday 4th of December. This will be an informal meeting taking place between 1pm and 4pm at the Pavilion Branstons Golf and Country Club.

The meeting was then closed.

