

Burwell Surgery Patient Participation Group.
Minutes of the Meeting 27 January 2026

Attendees: 14 attendees.

4 online attendees.

Apologies: 9 apologies.

1. **New Members-** Lovely to have HMS and JS join us.
2. **The apologies were received and noted.**
3. **Minutes of the last meeting on 14 October 2025** having been circulated, were agreed and accepted.
4. **Matters arising**
 - A quick discussion about weight loss jabs and how the NHS guidance around these might be slightly changing, the surgery are still awaiting further information. One member of the PPG mentioned that the Slimming World group in Soham supports people using weight loss injections.
5. **Guest Speakers- Maxine and Gina from the PCN Perinatal Feeding Team**

Please see Powerpoint attached to the email with the slides Maxine and Gina used, these contain some really good information about the service they provide. Some extra points picked up from discussion:

 - There is no other role like it across the country
 - The group discussed where their service is advertised- mentioned the local baby bank but it is tricky to advertise there as Maxine and Gina can only work with patients that are registered within our PCN and the baby bank has visitors from far and wide.
 - The surgery stated that they have information on the screens in the waiting room and on their website about this service.
 - Great feedback from the patients and surgery was provided.
6. **Updates from the Surgery**

Staffing

 - Dr Johnson will be returning from maternity leave in the next few months.
 - We have recruited a new female GP called Dr Snudden.
 - We have now recruited a pharmacy team which should help medication reviews at the surgery.

ICB 10-year plan meeting

 - Dr Manning explained that it might be better to wait to meet with the ICB until after Spring when the restructure is happening. This is because a lot of staff will be losing their jobs and it is currently a bit unpredictable.
 - The idea with the restructure is that it will work more as a single neighbourhood provider that focuses on care in the community.

Covid spring programme

- To patients, this should look similar to previous programmes. We might be vaccinating children as well as vaccinating the care homes and housebound patients.

Prostate Screening

- There is currently no plan for a nation-wide screening for prostate cancer. This is partially due to the complexities with the test such as false positives. As a surgery we test opportunistically when a patient requests or has symptoms. There is a possibility this might change in the future as the PSA blood test has been around for a long time but there is currently no better test. One PPG member mentioned that scientists were researching a breath test to detect prostate cancer but this is very early stages.
- Discussed the idea of a Facebook/Clunch article advertising the symptoms to detect prostate cancer. March is prostate cancer awareness month.

7. Discussion of Clinical Areas – Support to elderly patients wishing to continue to live at home

Dr Manning stated that to support an elderly patient to live at home must rely on a lot of support networks coming together. Health can sometimes only be a small part of a reason someone might struggle to stay in their own home. Other support can (but is not limited to) equipment, carers, medication help, housing, benefits and funding.

- Reablement Care can be put in place to support a patient being released from hospital, usually in place for up to 6 weeks and they help assess what support a patient will need going forward. As a surgery we can sometimes refer patients to reablement even if they have not had a stay in hospital.
- Social Services can do a care needs assessment but the waiting list for these is long. They can also the support with carers but this depends on the funds a patient has access to. If Social Services comes across a patient that needs high level of care and does not have the money to fund their own care, they may decide it is cheaper to put the patient into a care home.
- The surgery can do referrals to community-based physiotherapists and occupational therapists to try and support with mobility and equipment around the house.
- Hospital Prevention Team is a team that are on hand 24/7 to assist with keeping patients (particularly elderly patients) out of hospital.
- JET Team are available 8-8 and can be referred to via 111 or the surgery. This is another team that help prevent admission to hospital.
- We are very lucky in Burwell to have amazing community groups such a Burwell Carers, Burwell Visiting, the Day Centre and the Car Scheme which are all very helpful in supporting elderly patients across the board. We also have lots of local groups which can help encourage and keep elderly patients active which is helpful in keeping them mobile and able.
- The social prescriber at the surgery can assist patients finding care and support.
- A lot of the issues discussed are all due to funding. The group agreed to revisit this topic later down the line when the ICB restructure has settled to see if the neighbourhood provider system would support this at all.

8. Feedback to the surgery

It was mentioned that sometimes it can take a long time for medication changes from the hospital to be implemented by the surgery. Dr Manning discussed that this used to be the responsibility of the pharmacy team but with the staffing changes the GP's have had to pick these up. Hopefully this will improve with the new pharmacy team getting up and running over the next couple of months.

Car park lighting is dark in the wintertime, and the surface of the car park is uneven. Dr Manning said that there are still future plans to extend the surgery and carpark and this is something that can be looked at when this happens. Amy also said that the layby outside the entrance is to be used by people dropping off patients that might not be able to walk across the carpark.

Comments from multiple members of the PPG about how lovely the reception team are.

9. Attracting the views of younger patients.

We now have a PPG Facebook page which already has over 50 followers. Thanks was expressed to the team that helped set this up. The PPG can use this page to engage with the wider community that might not read the Clunch or be able to attend meetings. We can share more on this page than we can in Clunch articles. The PPG members will help with sharing this page across local groups.

10. AOB.

SE was thanked for all her hard work in the community and the PPG. This meeting is her last before she emigrates. Sue also let the group know that she had found people to take over the Burwell Visiting and Burwell Carers groups which is fantastic news.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm, the next meeting will take place on 28th April.