



**MINUTES OF THE PPG MEETING HELD ON**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Present:- Peter Usher; John Kelsey (chair) ; Helen Lewis; Eileen Wears; Anne Thirlaway; Paul Dodds;  
Richard Lilly, Joan Bedlington

Apologies None

**1 Update from North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group**

Paul provided a brief update on recent matters from the CCG

- **Gateshead admissions** – emergency admissions will now be sent to Gateshead Queen Elizabeth Hospital if the ambulance wait at UHND is more than 30 minutes
- **Funding** – CCG is like other parts of the NHS starting to be affected by funding restrictions
- **Frail Elderly** – brief summary of new pilot of home visits and realignment of Community Matrons to concentrate on care home patients.
- **Weekend Opening** – now limited to fortnightly due to withdrawal of funding by CCG
- **Workforce Issues** – continuing pressure on staff and shortage of GP's, with planned Government scheme of 7 days opening at risk unless more GP's are trained.
- **Chester le Street Hospital** – discussion on use of the hospital. As it is a PFI build the only way of using the building is if GP's or other services pay the built in fees which are currently prohibitively excessive

**2 Development of the Group**

There was a lengthy discussion on the Group and what it had achieved in light of recently completing the new Annual Return template. This touched upon previously discussed items including;

- Terms of Reference – noted now agreed
- Flat screen monitor – ideally one that has messages
- Membership – new some action to progress this
- Noticeboards – a GP practice in Cumbria was highlighted
- Newsletters – still feel it appropriate to have one in some form
- Minutes/Agendas – need more formalising

The Group want to know more and want to be asked to do more but the composition of the Group needs to reflect the practice population. There was a feeling the Group have no power in their mandate and that change has been limited.

Action: Agreed to have a smaller meeting to look at a PPG patient leaflet and poster

Paul

**6 Next Meeting**

To be confirmed following meeting of sub group in June/July

Paul

**Action Log**

	<b>Actions from 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015 meeting</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Date completed or Date Reported</b>
5/15/2.0	Convene meeting to discuss PPG patient leaflet and poster to increase membership	Paul	