

**WOLVERHAMPTON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP  
PRIMARY CARE COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PUBLIC)  
Extraordinary Meeting**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 2pm  
Christ Church,  
Church Road, Tettenhall Wood, Wolverhampton WV6 8NQ**

**MEMBERS ~  
Wolverhampton CCG ~**

Name	Position	Present
Sue McKie	Chair (voting)	Yes
Les Trigg	Lay Member (Vice Chair) (voting)	Yes
Steven Marshall	Director of Strategy & Transformation (voting)	Yes
Sally Roberts	Chief Nurse & Director of Quality (voting)	Yes
Dr David Bush	Locality Chair / GP (non-voting)	Yes
Dr Manjit Kainth	Locality Chair / GP (non-voting)	Yes
Dr Salma Reehana	Clinical Chair of the Governing Body (non-voting)	No

**NHS England ~**

Bal Dhami	Senior Contracts Manager – Primary Care, NHSE	No
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**Non-Voting Observers ~**

Tracy Cresswell	Wolverhampton Healthwatch Representative	No
Dr Ankush Mittal	Consultant in Public Health	No
Dr B Mehta	Wolverhampton LMC	No
Jeff Blankley	Chair of Wolverhampton LPC	No

**In attendance ~**

Helen Hibbs	Chief Officer (WCCG)	Yes
Peter McKenzie	Corporate Operations Manager (WCCG)	Yes
Sarah Southall	Head of Primary Care (WCCG)	Yes
Gill Shelley	Primary Care Contracts Manager (WCCG)	Yes
Lesley Sawrey	Deputy Chief Finance Officer (WCCG)	Yes
Andrea Clarke	Head of Consultation & Engagement (AGCSU)	Yes
Dr S F Shafi	GP Partner Tettenhall Medical Practice	Yes
Sue Sephton	Practice Manager - Tettenhall Medical Practice	Yes
Karen Irvine	Assistant Practice Manager-Tettenhall Medical Practice	Yes
Diane North	Primary Care Commissioning Committee Admin (WCCG)	Yes
Mike Hastings	Director of Operations (WCCG)	No
Liz Corrigan	Primary Care Quality Assurance Co-ordinator (WCCG)	No

## **Welcome and Introductions**

WPCC613 Rev Phil Wooton, Vicar of Christ Church welcomed the committee and all in attendance to Christ Church. The Chair thanked Rev Wooton for hosting the meeting and welcomed the committee panel and members of the public to the meeting. Committee members introduced themselves individually. There was a show of hands to indicate which committee members had voting rights

## **Apologies**

WPCC614 Apologies were received from Dr Ankush Mittal, Mrs Liz Corrigan, Mr Mike Hastings and Mr Tony Gallagher (with Mrs Lesley Sawrey attending in his place)

## **Declarations of Interest**

WPCC615 Dr Kanith declared a conflict of interest due to a relative of his being a patient at the Wood Road Practice. He was permitted to stay in the meeting as he was a non-voting member.

## **Minutes of the Meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

WPCC616 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 1<sup>st</sup> October, were agreed as an accurate record.

**RESOLVED: That the above was noted.**

## **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

WPCC617 There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

**RESOLVED: That the above was noted.**

## **Committee Action Points**

WPCC618 As this was an extraordinary meeting, the actions were deferred to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED: That the above was noted.**

## **Wood Road Surgery: Proposal for Changes**

WPCC619 Ms Shelley introduced her report outlining the proposed change of services at Wood Road Surgery. She advised that Tettenhall Medical Practice provides primary medical services for around 12, 000 patients at their main site at Lower Green and the branch site at Wood Road. Patients registered with the practice were informally allocated to one site or the other but were allocated appointments at either site.

In February 2019, the practice wrote to the CCG informing of their intention to close the Wood Road site; citing the difficulty of recruiting GPs and the financial implications of the payment of service charges to NHS Property

Services (NHSPS) for the 2 sites as key factors in making the proposal. In line with NHS England guidance, the practice undertook a public consultation on the proposed closure, which was supported by the Arden & GEM Commissioning Support Unit. The consultation began on 7 May 2019, initially for 90 days and subsequently was extended to 15 September 2019.

Following consideration and reflection on the feedback from the consultation, the practice decided not to submit a formal application to close the branch surgery but instead applied to reduce the number of clinical sessions offered at Wood Road surgery from 7 to 4 sessions per week. In doing so, the Practice felt this would enable them to continue to provide quality primary medical services to their patient population without compromising services offered to patients local to Wood Road who have difficulties accessing Lower Green.

Details of both the premises at Wood Road and Lower Green were given and it was highlighted that Lower Green (where the 3 sessions currently provided at Wood Road would be run ensuring no overall reduction in the number of appointments) has the capacity to manage the additional patients. It was further highlighted that some services can only be offered at Lower Green due to the equipment required and that car parking at both sites can be very limited at times. Ms Shelley also highlighted that the practice acknowledged the difficulty of GP recruitment would still remain but confirmed they had been successful in securing funding through the General Practice Resilience Programme to support this. This would assist them to continue to pursue recruitment of GPs and review their model of service delivery to include other clinical professionals such as Advance Nurse Practitioners (ANPs), Clinical Pharmacists, Physician's Assistants and Paramedics. Ms Shelley also highlighted that the practice had undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment in relation to the proposal, which was appended to the report.

Dr Shafi, on behalf of the practice, explained that the proposal to close the branch site had occurred following the retirement of one of the partners in August 2018. The remaining partners were therefore working above the normal full time equivalent of most other practices and three other partners wished to reduce their sessions in order to maintain a better work/life balance and avoid burn out. Recruitment had been difficult and the practice was not able to sustainably cover the sessions across the two sites. The practice had however recognised the strong opposition to closure evidenced through the consultation process and therefore developed an alternative proposal. This proposal would ensure that patients would retain access to a high quality, safe and effective service that allowed patients local to Wood Road surgery, who cannot access Lower Green, to continue to access and receive Primary Medical Services near to where they live. She further advised that patients would continue to be able to access both sites on dedicated phone lines and that calls for Wood Road would be transferred to Lower Green when it was closed. Access for local patients would be enhanced with a number of both pre-bookable and on the day urgent appointments allocated specifically for patients living local to Wood Road who are unable to easily access Lower Green. Patients would also continue to be able to access the additional appointments offered via the Unity

Primary Care Hub at Pennfields Health Centre and Ashmore Park Health Centre. She confirmed that the practice had consulted on the revised proposal with the Patient Participation Group (PPG) on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 for which they received their support.

Andrea Clarke from AGCSU then provided an outline of the consultation process which had included sending letters to patients, posters, an online questionnaire, drop-in events, media releases and social media activity. A meeting took place with local councillors, the local MP and the Save Wood Road (SWR) campaign group with CCG representatives. A Question & Answer session chaired by the local MP Eleanor Smith and a visit to the surgery for councillors and members of the SWR campaign group took place along with an additional drop-in event in the community following the extension of the consultation period.

She highlighted that the survey undertaken had indicated that 74.24% of respondents did not agree with the proposed closure of the branch surgery and a number of common themes relating to access and the potential impact of the closure of the branch on the population served by the practice had emerged. The full consultation report, which had been reviewed by a number of stakeholders including the Save Wood Road campaign group to confirm it accurately reflected the views expressed during the consultation, was appended to the report.

In response to questions relating to future plans should the Practice manage to recruit additional GPs Dr Shafi confirmed that the practice continued to advertise for both GPs and other healthcare professionals and that, following successful recruitment, the possibility of expanding the number of sessions would be considered but this would depend on the overall resources available. She also confirmed that, whilst the option of using ANPs to deliver the service at Wood Road had been considered, the practice felt it was a safer and better service under GP cover and that more appointments than currently would be ring-fenced for patients who lived locally to Wood Road. In response to a further question, she also confirmed that the practice had recognised the strength of feeling relating to the potential closure of the surgery and would not intend to bring further proposals to reduce sessions further.

The Chair also invited eight members of the public, who had indicated in advance that they wished to speak, to address the committee and included Stuart Anderson, Prospective Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Wolverhampton South West who was also a patient at the surgery.

Points that were made included:-

- The high regard and reliance on the surgery by the local population, with examples given of the quality of care that had made a significant difference to patients.
- The decision not to propose to close the surgery was welcomed but some concern was expressed at the reduction in the number of sessions and the impact that this would have on access for the most vulnerable patients. The Save Wood Road Campaign group

highlighted their willingness to work with the practice to secure services for the future.

- Some concerns about the consultation process were expressed, including the incompleteness of some of the equality information but the fact the surgery had listened to the feedback was welcomed.
- Specific concerns about access to Lower Green, particularly for older and disabled people and in relation to car parking at Lower Green and the impact on local residents were expressed.
- It was noted that the Surgery was sited on land originally gifted to the local community and that this point had not been referenced in the report.
- Questions were raised about the practice being obliged to use NHS Property Services facilities management services. In response it was confirmed that the CCG was working with practices and NHS Property Services to ensure lease arrangements provided practices with flexibility around facilities management where possible.
- In response to a further question about whether the difficulties recruiting GPs was a national issue it was confirmed that there was a national problem and that steps were being taken to address it. This included increasing training places and seeking to expand the use of other healthcare professionals across General Practice.

The local MP Eleanor Smith was in attendance and she thanked the Save Wood Road campaign group and the local community for all their hard work demonstrating the value of the surgery and also thanked the CCG/CSU and Practice for listening to the views expressed during the consultation. She emphasised that the addition of professionals such as Advanced Nurse Practitioners should be strongly considered and welcomed into the surgery as they were not there to replace GPs but to enhance the service. A petition of over 2,200 signatures was presented.

The Chair thanked all present for their contributions and asked the committee to consider the proposal from the practice to reduce the number of sessions, which was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the proposal from Tettenhall Medical Practice to reduce the number of sessions provided at Wood Road Surgery from seven to four be approved.**

### **Any other Business**

WPCC620      There was no further business and the meeting was closed.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

WPCC621      Tuesday 3rd December 2019 at 2pm – PC108, Creative Industries Centre, Wolverhampton Science Park WV10 9RU