

# Peel Medical Practice

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Newsletter July 2023



## WELCOME

Hello to all our Peel Medical Practice patients and carers, here is the summer update on the latest news and information from your PPG Committee:

**A radio broadcast in April by a GP gave details of the current state of primary care. The main points are:**

A typical GP's day is now 12 hours, it used to be 8/9 hours.

- 25 -45 year olds now find services easier to access thanks to online and digital facilities.
- Patients can now expect to be seen by any member of their surgery team, not all of whom are GPs. The team have specialisms and knowledge that GPs may not have, so the GP may not be the best person to see. Being seen by someone other than a GP is not a second class service. New and more diverse services are now offered.



- Access to services is an issue. This is because there are many more patients, especially elderly, with more complex conditions for which there is a variety of treatments that must be discussed with the patient. All this takes time.
- Staff who have come to the UK from abroad are returning to their home countries. GPs are leaving the NHS.
- GP practices get 7% of the NHS budget, but carry out 80% of NHS activity.
- Over 300 million patient consultations are held each year, compared with 23 million visits to A and E. A year's worth of GP care per patient costs less than two visits to A and E. Less is spent on general practice than on hospital outpatients.
- Every day 1.3 million people contact a GP. Some practices are merging, and others are opting not to renew their NHS contracts.



**The NHS is now offering a Digital Weight Management Programme for people living in Staffordshire.** You can self-refer, and there is a range of 12-week management plans to choose from. You can sign up through NHS login, using a Smartphone or computer with internet access. **NB if you don't have access to online services** you can use the Everyone Health Programme

**University Hospitals Derby and Burton gave a presentation about Community Hospitals** in April this year. In addition to services already provided at Robert Peel, the hospital plans to provide CT scans, MRI scans and cataract operations. There will also be an additional ward.



**The Committee has discussed the future of the monthly Coffee Mornings** they have held for several years. Sadly, since Covid very few patients have attended, so the events have not achieved their purpose of strengthening links between the practice and its patients. We have decided that in future coffee mornings will be held only at Christmas and to support the Macmillan charity.

**The Safe Haven Crisis Café** is now open at Sacred Heart Community Centre in Tamworth. It is available to anyone who needs a place where they feel safe, and where they can talk and improve their wellbeing and recovery. The café is open 5pm to 11pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturdays and 1.30om to 9.30pm Sundays..

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**The Shingles Vaccine** is now available to anyone over 65, and from September over 50s with a severely weakened immune system will also be eligible. Ask at your GP surgery for details.

**The PPG Committee** is your patient voice. All patients are regarded as members of the PPG group, but you can opt out by letting the practice know you don't want to take part.

Please visit our section on the practice website to find out more about the PPG. Thank you for reading this newsletter.