

Hollies Patients Forum (HPF)

Steering Group Meeting

Monday 1 June 2026 2026, 6-7.30pm

Attendance

Linda Campbell (LC)
Eleanor Cumberbatch (GP Partner) (EC)
Harry Frost (HF)
Ian Hodgson (Chair) (IH)
Jeet Khosa (JK)
John Nelson (JN)
Jean Nowell-Eyre (JNE)
Andy Smith (Practice Manager) (AS)

Apologies for absence

Rory Freeman
Sally Freeman
Howard Fry
Pauline Tryner
Michael Worboys

CORE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from five members and noted.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

3. Notes from previous meeting and action points

These were confirmed as correct and action points addressed in this meeting as appropriate.

CORE DISCUSSION THEME

4. Sarcoidosis [Jean Newell-Eyre]

Jean is chair of the Sheffield sarcoidosis support group, affiliated with Sarcoidosis UK, and she gave an informative and very personal presentation about the condition in tonight's meeting. She shared details of its history, signs and symptoms, treatment, the role of primary care (especially the need to be vigilant for symptoms that are often vague or ambiguous), and her experience of living with sarcoidosis since being diagnosed in 2013.

The forum thanked Jean for her fascinating, passionate, and inspiring presentation.

Further information about sarcoidosis can be found on the [NHS website](#), and via [Sarcoidosis UK](#).

PRACTICE FOCUS [AS and EC]

5. Practice update

- Hollies Medical Centre (HMC) has recently appointed a new GP (Dr Sophie Pickering), and reception staff. Staffing is currently at full complement for the practice.
- HMC continues to receive positive online reviews – up to 4.3 on Google Reviews!
- A new phone system has now been installed, increasing efficiency for patients calling the practice.
- HMC's patient numbers continue to increase – currently by around 2.5% month on month. The total is now over 11,000.

- Accurx being open all day is appreciated by patients but requires careful and strategic staff management to ensure responses to patients are sent by close of that day.
- IH noted that GPs contacting patients with long term conditions is highly appreciated.

6. Update on GP contract negotiations

- Negotiations are ongoing. A key issue is around balancing the challenges of extending access without increasing resources.
- Another important issue is around ‘advice and guidance’ (see notes from previous meeting).
- Industrial action is being considered by GPs across NHS England, but Hollies staff will endeavour to ensure that patient services are not significantly affected.

7. Updates to Hollies website

- The Hollies website has recently been updated on the Home and Appointments pages. HPF was generally happy with the improvements, noting the streamlined and prominent menu layout improved navigation. Small editing suggestions will be shared via email.
- JN noted that information about mental health could include [Sheffield Flourish](#).

PATIENT FORUM FOCUS

8. E- group feedback (IH)

- No specific issues – HPF continues to find ways to best include the e-group’s contribution. An agenda for this meeting was shared with the e-group, as will be the final version of the notes. Comments will be welcomed.

9. HPF Newsletter, updates and next edition (IH)

- The next newsletter is planned for September 2026.
- Articles for use in future newsletters will be submitted by JNE (sarcoidosis), JN (mental health), and HF (Healthwatch and patient representation). These are expected to be available for the newsletter’s editor by the end of August 2026.

10. Developments engaging with local community groups.

- JK shared a list of people she has contacted to share information about primary care and key health issues (e.g., health eating and obesity). She provided details of responses and opportunities.
- HF suggested that GP surgeries could be information hubs for community activities.
- AS will speak with Martha Jones about neighbourhood notice boards and information access points for maximum community exposure of important health information.

11. Miscellaneous

- IH suggested that, with the closure of the National Association of Patient Participation (NAPP), another useful source of information for patients about the health system is the [Patients Association](#). Whilst not focusing on primary care, the association’s resources and updates are useful for any patient accessing UK health care, including hospital and long-term care services. The association’s [Patient Partnership Week](#) is at the end of June 2026.
- Meetings between chairs of patient groups in the Porter Valley Primary Care Network (PVPCN) are continuing, allowing opportunities for chairs to share updates on their patient groups and exchange resources.

- The PVPCN’s next ‘extended PPG meeting’, with 2-3 representatives from each patient group across the network, will take place on 9 July 2026 @ 10.30am. JNE and LC kindly agreed to represent HPF (with IH). Location TBC.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE FORUM MEETINGS

10. Any other business

- Thanks to **LC** for providing delicious cakes for the meeting, and **AS** for supplying drinks.
- No other business.

Date of Next meeting

- **Monday 3 August 2026** [*Theme: Mental Health #2 – focus on addiction and recovery – JN*]

Remaining HPF Meetings in 2026 [all Mondays @ 6pm]

- 3 August 2026 [*Theme: Mental Health #2 – focus on addiction and recovery – JN*]
- 5 October 2026 [*Theme: Infectious disease, reflecting the Autumn vaccine clinics – IH*]
- 7 December 2026 [*Theme: HIV and prevention, reflecting World AIDS Day – IH*]

IH

15 June 2026 [FINAL]