

PPG AGM 14/11/24 Chair's Annual Report.

It's been a busy year for the PPG. The Constitution says we should have at least 4 meetings per year. This is our 8th meeting this year.

Tracy has given us regular updates on staffing, the new phone system, the unreliable lift, and other activities within the Practice. The reputation of the Practice has improved and the future is encouraging.

Nikki has helped establish the 'Warm Space' as a valuable addition to the facilities here and several other groups play their important part, particularly the Health Champions. There's a community spirit developing. In these very difficult times for the NHS, positive interaction between the staff and patients is more important than ever.

This year, a lot of our discussions have centred around our wish for an Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC). We have made some progress.

Todmorden's PPG and Hebden's PPG have established a good relationship and are collaborating in our mutual goal for improved facilities within this building, to help the whole Upper Valley.

Early in the year, Richard Woodcock (Chair of Hebden's PPG) and I wrote two separate letters to the Calderdale & Huddersfield Foundation Trust. They replied quickly.

The tone of their reply was that they understood there were difficulties. They had discussed opening an UTC in Todmorden but could not take this decision on their own - it would be a decision for the 'board'. (It wasn't clear who they were talking about when referring to the 'board'.) In April, I wrote to the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board. I think Richard wrote separately, as well. Neither of us received a reply.

We invited the General Election candidates for a meeting here on 20th June. They saw the empty rooms and listened to our proposal. The idea was warmly received by those at the meeting and was reported in some local newspapers.

Earlier, Richard and I wrote a joint email to Calderdale Council's 'Adults, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board'. They couldn't discuss it at the time so we contacted the 'Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee' who discussed it and passed it back down the chain.

On 31st October, the Adults, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board discussed 'Services within Todmorden Health Centre'. The general feeling at the meeting was that an UTC may not be the best solution but there was a problem with health inequalities and the matter should be discussed again.

We've successfully got people talking about the issue.

Most people accept the current situation is less than ideal but there are differing opinions about what the best route forward should be, even within this group.