

Falkland PPG Newsletter



Spring 2026

Welcome to the latest Patient Participation Group (PPG) Newsletter

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Open Evening — Holiday Time

The next PPG and surgery open evening will be on Wednesday 17th June at 7pm. At this holiday time, we will be looking at how the surgery can help you before you travel, on anything from vaccinations to coping with sun and heat.

The open evening will be in the surgery waiting room, with tea and coffee available and a raffle.

Surgery News

The PPG heard at its last meeting about various staffing changes. Deputy Practice Manager Karen Hayward has retired, and many people will remember her friendly, approachable manner. A new GP, Emily Moore has been recruited. She does 3 sessions over 3 days Weds/Thurs & Fri 9.30am - 1.30pm. She started at the beginning of April. Two Patient Service Advisors (previously known as receptionists) have also recently been recruited.

NHS News Bites

- Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Wes Streeting has resigned (to spend more time with his ambitions), replaced by James Murray, formerly Chief Secretary to the Treasury.
- A 'Health Bill' has been published. Amongst other things it provides for a new 'single patient record' so all your details are in one place, whether at the GP, in an ambulance or in hospital. However, there are still questions about control of the data and confidentiality. The Bill also abolishes NHS England, merging it into the Department of Health and Social Care. Healthwatch is abolished and there is no independent voice of the patient to replace it.
- The NHS App has been updated to make it easier to use. You can access it on a smart phone but also from a laptop or desktop computer. The Royal Berks has a new patient information system, 'Connect', which links to the App, so you should be able to

Falkland On-line

Don't forget that the surgery has its own Facebook page where you can get up-to-date information as well as post your own comments

And there's also the website of course:

www.falklandsurgery.co.uk

see hospital appointments on it too. for more information. go to:

<https://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/royal-berkshire-connect>

- The local Integrated Care Board (they get the money from central government and pass it on to the hospitals, community health services, GPs etc.) has been expanded to include the whole of Berkshire as well as Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and is now known as the Thames Valley ICB.
- The Chief Executive of the Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust, Steve McManus has retired. He was instrumental in helping the Trust improve, including the Royal Berkshire Hospital being assessed as **Excellent** (by the CQC). He has been replaced by James Blythe, previously interim Chief Executive of St George's, Epsom and St Helier Hospitals, one of the largest health groups in the country.

Neighbourhood Health

(The future of local health)

The earthquake in the way local health is provided, known as 'Neighbourhood Health', which we wrote about this time last year, has come a step closer. It has made an appearance in various policy documents but the official guidance, expected last November was finally published in March.

Neighbourhood health is a major, national initiative designed to move care from hospitals into communities, integrate all the various sources of help and move from treatment to prevention, such as dealing with all the underlying issues that harm people's physical and mental health. The Patient Panel (the forum for PPGs and other health bodies across West Berkshire) recently had a detailed briefing on the initiative from Director of Public Health Matt Pearce.

It is still not entirely clear what this will all look like, though, on the plus side, it means there is a significant opportunity to shape it. Initially it is likely to focus on particular groups of people

who make most use of health services, such as frail elderly people, people with mental health problems and those at risk of cardiovascular disease.

Some of the points from the talk were:

- There could be neighbourhood partnerships to provide direction and shape priorities within a neighbourhood.
- Multidisciplinary teams of professionals could come together to address different aspects of a person's health needs.
- There might be physical 'hubs', or Neighbourhood Health Centres, where a range of services are brought together.
- However, one of the big, unresolved questions is what sort of areas this might relate to. It is unlikely to be what most of us think of as a 'neighbourhood' – a few streets or perhaps an estate. On some options there might be only two, or three in the whole of West Berkshire.
- There is little or no new money to enable all this to happen. The group of public bodies developing the proposals are keen to involve patients and members of the public. Although specific consultation has not yet been arranged, if anyone would like to know more and get involved, please email us at:

falklandppg@gmail.com.

We are always looking for volunteers to join the Falkand Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) which acts as the voice of the patients by feeding people's views to the doctors and managers and passing on information. If you'd like to receive emails from the PPG, or join the committee, please email:

falklandppg@gmail.com

Contact us at: falklandppg@gmail.com
or via our website at: www.falklandppg.org.uk

.....and finally, don't forget the

Surgery Open Evening

Wed 17 June 2026 at 7:00 pm