

New Longton Surgery Patient Information Newsletter.

Issue 3 Summer 2026

Welcome to our Summer Practice newsletter. The patient participation group met in May and this newsletter is to give you the latest news from the practice

Dr Whitworth informed the group that the surgery had succeeded in achieving all targets in patient care and contracts with the Integrated Care Board (ICB). A significant achievement was the target for prescribing, the medicines optimisation enhanced service. The surgery was the only one in the area to achieve this target. It had been a difficult target with much hard work involve to maintain patient care whilst saving money.

The targets next year will focus on two new areas, that of weight management and heart failure.

Dr Whitworth wanted to raise awareness of the possibility of GP's working to rule. The Local Medical Committee (LMC), who are generally on the side of GP's are currently engaged with talks with the BMA about possible collective action. Such action would involve balloting GP's asking them to work to rule. This is not strike action as stressed by Dr. Whitworth.

An example of how this might be applied would be a recurring theme of patients discharged by the acute trust and needing further actions, e.g. Physiotherapy, blood tests. This often falls on surgeries to pick up this action at their expense in terms of time taken. In reality this should be the responsibility of the trust. It would mean a patient being advised to chase this up with the hospital rather than the staff at the surgery. Those patients who are most vulnerable would always be assisted by the surgery.

Other pressures to be aware of are the governments 10year plan which seeks to see a drive towards larger practices with salaried staff rather than smaller practices where GPs are partners. New Longton Surgery is a small practice with one GP partner, Dr Whitworth, and one salaried GP, Dr Grice. Currently patients should not worry too much about this news as all agreed this was an excellent surgery and every effort would be made to retain this model of care.

You may have noticed a large box in the waiting room area this is the server for internet access which is now rather old and very noisy. As a result of the prolonged exposure to the office staff and the effect of noise levels on their hearing over 9 hours on a daily basis a decision was made to relocate it. Although not ideal in the waiting area it was the only alternative place to position it and patients waiting for appointments generally do not have to wait long to be seen. The Virgin internet box is very old and hopefully this will be rectified long term when it is eventually replaced by the ICB IT service provider.

Other news is in regard to the expansion of housing in the catchment area of the practice. A discussion took place about the need to unfortunately remove patients from the practice list who live out of area. New Longton Surgery currently has a capacity of approximately 2,200 and is at capacity. This means it will be impossible for the surgery to accept new patients without shedding others from the list. The surgery is obliged to accept new patients who live within the catchment area. In the first instance patients currently on the list who live in Lostock Hall, Bamber Bridge and Penwortham will be advised that they will need to change their GP.

Dr Whitworth is to take a period of extended leave for six weeks in November this year some of which will be unsalaried. Her daughter also a doctor has recently taken a position up at the Melbourne Women's Hospital. This together with her husband's retirement will give her the opportunity to take a holiday and see her daughter. The group wished Dr Whitworth well on a much-deserved trip.

Patient cover would not be compromised and would be covered by Dr. Grice, Dr. Jones together with two regular locums Dr Ash Patel and Dr. Catherine Bradshaw.

The PPG are going to become involved in fundraising for the practice. Meetings will be held to explore ways to raise funds which would be used to improve the patient experience when attending the surgery. A TV screen for example in the waiting area would be a useful means of sharing health promoting messages. Anyone interested can become involved. Early ideas and meetings have taken place Attention was turned to ideas for fund raising which would involve the help of members of the PPG. Please speak to the practice manager Debbie or a member staff if you would like to become involved or if you have any ideas. Have a lovely summer.

The first of the fundraising events will be held on August 27th at 7pm.

Location: The Barn
 Alderfield
 Wham Lane Whitestake
 PR4 5JS

Steve Griffin ex Heart surgeon will give a fascinating talk

“Don't Try this at Home”

A beginner's guide to Heart Transplantation.

Minimum donation £2.00

PEASE NOTE: The practice is supporting this fundraising event in a non-clinical capacity only and will not accept any liability for loss, damage or injury arising from attendance or participation; responsibility for all event-related risks rests with the event organisers and individual attendees.”

In addition, the owners of The Barn would like it stated that they are also not liable for any loss, damage or injury arising from attendance or participation.

Newsletter compiled by Janet Edwards member of the Patient Participation Group in conjunction with the staff of New Longton Surgery July 2026