Haughton Thornley Medical Centres
Minutes of PPG meeting
22nd September 2026

Present: Cathy Dobson, Gerald England, Dominic Sexton, Amir Hannan, Paul Welsh, Akmal Shakoor (on screen), Lucy Hepworth (practice manager)

Apologies: Olive Harper, Christine Greenough, Richard Dudley

1. Dr Shakoor joined on screen and introduced the self care day which will take place at Thornley House on Saturday 3rd October from 9.3- to 1.30. This health promotion event is being combined with flu vaccine clinics, and will be followed by a walk.

The aim of the event is to encourage and empower people to take control of their health, reducing risks with three key targets:

- Reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease through lifestyle choices, reducing high blood pressure, etc
- Cancer screening – when to get screened and why
- Using the NHS app – how this can empower patients to become active in their own healthcare.

There will be talks on these three topics, repeated during the morning to give everyone the chance to hear them.

The purpose of the walk is to introduce people to a possible new pastime, encourage bonding between walkers and show one way to tackle loneliness.

Other community organisations have been approached to take part in the morning session, with the opportunity to set up stands showcasing their work and how they can benefit patients. Living Nature CIC will be there. Dominic has contacted Active Tameside but not had a response yet.

Dr H will make recordings of the event. Publicity is via posters (the PPG was impressed by the samples shown) and social media. Those eligible for flu jabs will be contacted by text, and will be sent details of the event at the same time. This will mean that around 3,500 to 4,000 patients are invited.
This is also an opportunity to promote the PPG. We can have a stand or give a talk or both.

Measures of success will be:

- number of flu vaccines given
- number of attendees
- number of blood pressure checks
- number of people helped to use the NHS app
- amount of engagement with cancer screening information
- sign ups to other services
- number joining the walk
- interest in the PPG

Practice staff have volunteered to help and to give talks. Light refreshments will be provided – hot drinks and fruit – which will be paid for jointly by the PPG and the practice.

ACTION – Dominic to sort out access to PPG funds as two signatories to the account are now unavailable.

ACTION – PPG members to attend for some or all of the session and the walk. Dominic, Paul and Gerald will be there. Cathy will come along later. Other members please join.
ACTION – if time allows PPG member to create leaflets or business cards to hand out on the day.

There was a discussion re whether a regular walk could be organised from the surgery.

The practice has many patients who are lonely, who have or are at risk of diabetes, or who have mental health issues. With this in mind social prescribers will be invited to attend.

Akmal summarised the actions required to make the session work and ensured that all roles were filled.

2. Practice update. Lucy is our new practice manager. She has joined at a time of change for the practice and is continuing the work started by Shabana to ensure that the next CQC inspection will have a successful outcome.

Dr H talked about a presentation given to the non-clinical staff about the reasons for the changes – what was required, what has been done, and ongoing work to ensure that this practice remains 'outstanding'.

3. Next meeting 24th November 2026.