

**MERSEA ISLAND MEDICAL PRACTICE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

MINUTES

10th March 2026

In attendance

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| Geoff Whittaker – Acting chair | Julie Pearson | Caroline Parkinson |
| Martin Westley – MT | Dehlia McNair | Alan Tucker |
| Martin Sellens – MT | Charles McNair | P. Baldwin |
| Rosie Brown | Lorraine Carter | Patricia A. Tucker |
| Maggie Whittaker | Linda Westley | |

Kris Culmer and Dr. Katherine Patel were in attendance on behalf of the Practice.

Apologies

Maureen Phillips, Pat Robinson, Jenny Chalkin, David Cooper, Christine Cheetham, Bry Mogridge.

Geoff welcomed members to the meeting and explained Maureen's absence as the result of a broken ankle. Martin W. gave a brief update on her condition and good wishes were given by all for a speedy recovery.

Geoff also noted that Martin S. had joined the Management Team and welcomed him aboard.

Presentation

Kris Culmer began by reporting that the Practice has a few new staff who have taken positions and have no current vacancies. She confirmed that Dr. Patel would be leaving on 31 March and her patients would be taken on by Dr. Heng Fah Lee, who was a registrar at the Practice and has recently qualified.

Two new receptionists started before Christmas and another has joined recently. They are currently under training. Compliments had been given on the quality of service provided and were echoed by some in the room.

Carly Cockram, Health Care Assistant in phlebotomy, has left the practice and has been replaced as HCA by Ellie Hyam.

A new GP Registrar, Dr. Pond, has also been welcomed and another, Dr. Onyina, is due to start in April.

Substantial works on Barfield Road will commence, hopefully, at the end of March. Room space will be increased and, hopefully, at some point the Practice will be able to reopen patient registrations. No promises can be made at this point, however.

There is no update on the planning application for Kingsland Road which remains in process.

Timings of educational shutdowns have only just been circulated to staff members but they will be put on the Practice website. They will be held on Tuesdays: 21 April, 19 May, 16 June with others to follow. The Practice will be closed from 12 noon for the remainder of the day and emergencies can be reported using the 999 and 111 telephone numbers.

Training is all up to date and on schedule. There continues to be an uptake in respect of the NHS App.

Kris reminded members that the website is for information only. Contact with the practice can be dealt with electronically via Anima, which is a platform available by link from the Practice website. She confirmed that information and advice on physio assessment appointments and self-referral can be obtained from reception.

She mentioned also that a variety of social and health assistance services can be found via Colchester Frontline.

Geoff thanked Kris for her presentation. He went on to thank Dr. Patel on her leaving the Practice for all the work and assistance she has provided for the PPG over the years and gave our good wishes for her future life and career.

Geoff and Martin W. highlighted the coming session being held to “Train the Trainers” in using the NHS App. They and Martin S. and Rosemary Brown would be attending the course on Thursday 12 March and any other members interested are welcome to attend.