

Dudley & Netherton PCN – Patient Participation Group (PPG) Meeting

Summary

Date: 05 March 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Venue: The Savoy Centre, Netherton

Attendance

- 17 patients representing all 11 practices in the PCN
- 12 staff representatives including speakers

Meeting Theme: Cancer Screening & Early Detection

The session focused on increasing awareness of national cancer screening programmes, including how each programme works, eligibility criteria, and the impact of early detection on outcomes. Speakers from Lung, Breast, and Bowel screening services presented, followed by a group discussion.

Key Messages from the Session

- Cancer screening detects disease early in people without symptoms, improving treatment outcomes.
- Targeted Lung Cancer Screening is available for 55–74-year-olds who are current or former smokers, with strong uptake and high early-stage detection rates.
- Breast screening invites are routinely sent to women aged 49–70; patients 71+ can self-refer.
- Bowel screening barriers include stigma, awareness, language challenges, and practical issues, addressed through outreach and translated materials.

Group Discussion – Key Themes

- Barriers to attending cancer screening:
 - Fear and anxiety
 - Cultural factors
 - Language difficulties
 - Body confidence concerns
 - Clinic location
 - Cost-related worries
- Improving communication about screening:

- Annual health check reminders
- Posters in multiple languages
- Social media campaigns
- Clinician screen pop-up reminders
- Using local patient stories
- Making screening appointments more comfortable:
 - Better promotion of lung screening
 - Considering younger screening eligibility
- Suggested topics for future PPG meetings:
 - Mental health / brain health
 - Prostate cancer
 - Heart health
 - Dietetics
 - Linking services

Next Steps

- Continue raising awareness of cancer screening programmes.
- Explore creating a single, easy-to-understand screening information poster.
- Plan future PPG topics based on patient feedback.

Key Actions

Action	Aim	When
Explore the development of a single poster containing all screening services	Help patients understand all available screening services in one easy digestible poster	Ongoing – PCN cancer cc will update practices as soon as this is created by the available services.
Opportunistic screening invite	Capture patients that may be otherwise unaware of eligibility	Discussion to be had in the PM meeting on opportunistic invite. With practice to work with PCN cancer care coordinator (Q1, 26/27)
PPG Theme Planning	Agree themes based on patient suggestions	June 2026