**Minutes of the Patient Participation Group held at Wawn Street Surgery on**

**6th March 2018 at 6pm.**

1. Chair welcomed 6 members and Dr Gill from the surgery.

1. Apologies were given for one member. No apologies from two members. One long-standing member had sent a letter of resignation.
2. There were no new members to be welcomed.
3. The minutes of the 11th January 2018 meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
4. There were matters arising from the previous minutes: “another doctor” was confirmed as Dr Buckle and the nurse-practitioner is Mrs Shields. It was reported that hospital maternity services are now back in South Shields and that the merger of South Tyneside and Sunderland hospitals had been rescheduled. Chair reported that there is a shortage of paediatric consultants and paediatric nurses in South Tyneside.
5. Reports
6. Doctor Gill updated the PPG on developments in the surgery. Dr Bhalla is to retire in June 2018. A member expressed gratitude for Dr Bhalla’s dedicated work in the practice over a very long period. Dr Gill reported that Dr Natalie Hughes will start in the practice in May 2018. She has a specialism in diabetes. Dr Buckle will increase his sessions to 10 per week. The practice will continue with recruitment efforts. Government policy is to encourage more diverse staffing in GP practices, that is GP partners, salaried GPs and nurse practitioners. A pharmacist now works in the practice – 3 half-days per week – offering specialist pharmacy skills to support the doctors. Meetings with the architects continue with the intention of remodelling the practice (as discussed in the previous meeting). During the recent severe weather the staff of the practice were able to maintain a good service for patients. Chair said that she would post a notice to thank the practice staff.

1. Members:

- a member reported that she had recently suffered from a life-threatening illness – she had contacted the surgery and eventually had to go to casualty for antibiotics and steroids. A discussion followed on procedures.

-a member reported on the minutes of the Patient Reference Group (PRG). The minutes were distributed to the PPG. The contents of these minutes were noted by members and there was discussion over a few items. Information was given about two further meetings: Health and Well-being and the CCG Strategy Group. PPG members were encouraged to participate.

1. Questions / comments from members: there was a wide-ranging discussion on the function and composition of the PPG. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.
2. Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 1st May 2018. The meeting closed at 7.25pm.