

Healthwatch Rochdale PPG Development Report – March 2025



Background

GP practices in the United Kingdom are contractually required under the NHS General Medical Services (GMS) contract to establish and maintain Patient Participation Groups (PPGs). These groups ensure meaningful patient engagement through regular meetings, implementation of feedback, and annual activity reporting. Practices must ensure their PPG represents their patient population while providing necessary resources and documenting how patient input influences practice decisions.



Achievements

Healthwatch Rochdale (HWR) has consistently worked with General Practices across the Rochdale Borough to establish effective PPGs. Through dedicated support and guidance, we have achieved remarkable progress:



- **2022:** Only 22% of GP practices had active PPGs
- **2024:** This figure increased to 43% of practices
- **2025:** We have now reached 100% compliance across the Rochdale Borough

Over the past 18 months, Healthwatch Rochdale has delivered a series of structured online training sessions tailored for practice staff. In addition, we have provided personalised support through one-to-one telephone consultations and in-person meetings with individual practices. Furthermore, we have actively supported Patient Participation Group (PPG) Chairs in strengthening and developing their groups to enhance community engagement and patient involvement.

This success ensures that all local residents can have a voice in the continuous development of primary care delivery.

Support Provided

HWR implemented a comprehensive support strategy including:

- Two Practice Manager education sessions focused on reflection and PPG development
- Ten one-to-one sessions with individual GP practices
- Practice Manager survey to identify specific barriers to PPG implementation
- Development of an easy-read PPG guidance document
- Creation and distribution of a best practice guide with practical templates and resources which can found on the Healthwatch Rochdale website



Future Plans

To maintain and build upon this success, HWR will:

1. Continue to provide targeted support to PPGs requiring assistance with recruitment and agenda setting
2. Work closely with Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to establish a more streamlined approach across each PCN area
3. Create and share a PPG training presentation for existing and new staff at all GP practices to be available by?
4. Establish and chair a quarterly borough-wide PPG meeting to share best practices and encourage collaboration to be delivered by???



Conclusion

Through continuous support, direction, and dedication, Healthwatch Rochdale has successfully facilitated 100% PPG compliance across the Rochdale Borough. This achievement represents a significant step forward in ensuring patient voices are heard in primary care delivery and demonstrates the effectiveness of our collaborative approach to community health engagement.

Contact Us



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