

Synopsis of the minutes of the meeting of the Upper Dales Health Watch

held on Tuesday 15th September 2026

- **The Little White Car** project now has 2 vehicles and 9 volunteer drivers. Upper Wensleydale & Swaledale patients needing to use of the Little White Car to go to a medical appointment need to book in good time. Bookings are on a first come first served basis. Patients can take a carer / relative / friend with them if this is made clear when the booking is taken. There is a schedule of charges e.g. £40 for a return trip to James Cook. Costs can be reduced for those on benefits. For information contact the Upper Dales Community Partnership at www.hawescommunityoffice.co.uk
- The Goodlife Project now covers Swaledale. It is hoped that a Men's Shed can be started in the Auction Mart at Hawes.
- **The Sycamore Hall Step-up Step-down flat** is being closed at the end of October due to NHS cuts in funding.
- Arrangements for the **seasonal jabs** (Flu, Covid, Shingles etc.) are in hand. Clinics will be run in all 3 surgeries from 1st October. Appointments can be made by phone, but patients are asked to phone in the afternoon.
- **Staff:**
Sharon Johnston is the Practice Nurse at Reeth. She is a trained prescriber.
Debbie Scott is one of the 3 GP Assistants (also known as Medical Secretaries)
Glen Ryder is providing admin support at Reeth and will be taking incoming phone calls Mon-Thur.
Chloë Hargreaves is the dispenser at Reeth.
- **Reeth patients** need to order medication AT LEAST a week in advance. It is expected that in the not-too-distant future the main pharmaceutical suppliers will deliver direct to Reeth Health Centre which should improve the situation.
- **Recruitment for a salaried GP** is ongoing.
- Consideration for the Hawes & Aysgarth Surgery buildings to become **Community Assets** will be researched.
- **Patients with minor, non-urgent illnesses** can seek help from local pharmacies – they receive NHS funding for this.
- **Crisis & Resilience Fund** to operate 01.04.26 -31.03.29. Contact North Yorkshire Council for details.
- **Warm Homes Local Grant** see www.northyorks.gov.uk

Jane Ritchie, Hon. Secretary