

Minutes of PPG practice meeting held on 17th June 2019

Present

Jack Alvarez (Chair)
Stephen Hill
Steve Macaulay (Secretary)
Dr Alan Jackson
Liz Lythaby

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sharon Carter and Brenda Hall who were both away on holiday.

Resignation

Barbara Johnson has resigned from the PPG. Jack thanked Barbara for the work she has put in and for the contribution she has made.

1. Matters arising from the previous meeting of 8th April

Part-time GP appointments have been made, since Dr Whaley has now left and Dr Lee now works part-time. Dr Kandala and Dr Rattan are part-time appointments, plus Dr Dattani.

Nikki Chamberlain is currently working reduced hours.

It was stated that nationally many GPs are now working part-time and this is reflected at the Practice. Steve pointed out that there are times when patient continuity suffers as a result. Dr Jackson pointed out that alternative means of communication can sometimes assist here, such as a telephone consultations, an email or a note at reception.

In addition, qualified doctors training to be GPs are at the Practice, with positions lasting between 3 and 12 months.

One option being considered in the medium term will be the appointment of an extra nurse practitioner who will act as a minor illness specialist.

2. Updates

Developments in primary care network

A draft contract is being discussed this week within the primary care network and nationally the deadline for all networks to be signed and set up is 30 June. Currently the

local network is operating out-of-hours appointments, plus also a pilot is taking place of early morning home visits across the network, to avoid some hospital admissions.

While there are many areas still to finalise, Dr Jackson commented that the current building is good for enabling more specialist clinics. Currently, for example, there is an eye clinic, a respiratory clinic and several others.

A requirement which will come into place over the next 12 months will be a full-time pharmacist, to be shared across the group and also a social prescriber.

The benefits of this network are a greater sharing of resources, enhancing what is available locally.

The PPG would be very willing to assist with communication when the situation is clearer, since this is bound to be something that patients will want to know more about at the appropriate time.

Assistance with recruiting new PPG members

Jack stressed that it was important that the PPG increase its numbers and Dr Jackson agreed to ask staff for suggestions.

Car parking for disabled and patients generally

Disability parking signs are very small, with no road markings. Dr Jackson asked if the PPG could locate an email address to raise with the council on seeking a planning issue.

Car parking generally is limited and there may be a possibility for an overflow car park at the Warner Brothers Studio site; again Dr Jackson asked whether one of the PPG members could explore who to contact there.

3. Areas requiring action

3.1 Spreading information on healthy living initiatives

Some PPG members attended a CCG sponsored meeting which looked at various healthy living initiatives, such as health walks, Park run and other initiatives. Jack has said that he will send emails out in future on information he receives on this issue. It was discussed how best to get the message over of such initiatives, perhaps through email or other sources.

3.2 Social prescribing

More needs to be understood on this subject. Jack will attend an induction meeting to find out more.

3.3 Increasing use of Patient Access

Steve had prepared a series of patient quotations on the use of Patient Access, particularly looking at the benefits of online test results and online patient records. Dr Jackson felt the message was beginning to get over that test results could often be quickly found via the website on Patient Access.

3.4 Barbara Johnson's self-help guide

Barbara had drafted out a self-help guide of local and national resources. It was suggested that some of these contact details might be available on the current website. It was agreed to explore what was currently available and how additional resources might be added.

3.5 PPGs linking together and communicating

Steve had contacted all the practice managers or PPGs in the current practice network and it appears that currently there is little that had been well established. Many of the practices said that they would be in touch when the position on their PPG improved, which they hoped would be shortly.

4. AOB

There has been prepared a new list of recent PPG activities and also a set of quotations from patients who are using online Patient Access.

5. Next PPG meetings

Next PPG patient meeting July 29th.

Next PPG practice meeting 2nd September
both at 6 PM.