

Patient Participation Group Meeting 1st December, 2021.

Attended via Microsoft Teams

Attendees : Peter Jay, Dr Peter Hill, Douglas Butler, Chris Tye, David James, Donya Urwin, Chris Smith, Margaret Toms, Lynne Earthy, Nina Sethi, Jenny Bradley, Julia Maclean

Apologies : Tony Isaacs

PJ welcomed new member, DB to the Meeting.

Minutes of the Last Meeting – Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd September, 2021, were discussed. Which Council deals with the various elements round the RAU/Chesterton area were discussed.

Reports

Practice News

Workload/Demand – The Practice is currently under tremendous pressure. CCG figures have confirmed that patient contacts have increased by 20%. Delays at the Hospital have had a knock-on effect to the workload of the Practice.

Temporary Consulting Rooms – in order to try and create some additional Consulting Room capacity the Practice are installing a two room temporary building in the Car Park at Chesterton Lane. Unfortunately this means that it will reduce the number of car parking spaces by four.

Additional Staff – The Practice have recently recruited two Urgent Care Practitioners and a First Contact Physiotherapist to help with the workload.

Practice Nurses – The Practice are currently short of Practice Nurse time and have been advertising since the Summer. There are a couple of candidates who have applied and are being interviewing next week. We also have a couple of Nurses who used to work for PHG and who is returning in the New Year.

Tetbury Lease – The current lease ended in the Summer. The landlord is obliged to renew the lease, but the current arrange will probably end in 2024.

Tetbury New Build – There is now some urgency to obtain land for a new build surgery. Any land will have to include new build houses to make it affordable, which causes problems with planning. The Practice are planning a patient consultation event on 9th December for Tetbury patients, but this may have to be delayed.

Cirencester – The Practice is also looking for land for a new surgery in Cirencester. There is a possibility that there may be some land at the RAU, but PH is still waiting to hear back from them. DJ reported that he has heard that there are moves afoot to build a 3 GP Surgery on the Chesterton Farm Development using S106 money. As far as the Practice is aware the CCG have rejected this idea. The Practice currently

have a patient list of approx. 23750 and the number of new patients being taken on is currently high compared to previous years.

South Cerney – NS asked if South Cerney had been considered for expansion. PH explained that the CCG will only support a development on one site and are not prepared to spread their support over a number of our surgeries.

GP Recruitment – Dr Alex Matheson will be joining the Practice in January. She will be based across all our sites and will provide holiday cover

Vaccination Programme:-

- Flu Vacs –The Flu Vaccinations are progressing well. The Practice are holding some Saturday clinics as well as weekday clinics. Next week they will be concentrating on housebound patients
- Covid Boosters – The booster programme is being extended to include all ages. The aim is to complete these by the end of January. The Practice are also still doing 1st and 2nd vaccinations, Care Home patients and Housebound patients.

Long Term Reviews – The Practice are having issues with scheduling appointments due both to the shortage of Nursing Staff and the lack of blood bottles. It was reported that an invite had been received, but on contacting the surgery there were no appointments available. PH explained that invites have temporarily been suspended until more capacity was available.

DB is a new patient who has recently joined the surgery and praised his experiences with the Surgery so far. CT reiterated the praise for the Reception Team.

CT suggested looking into Physicians Associates (PA) to help with the workload. PH explained that the Practice have been involved with PA student placements at Tetbury.

NS offered help in supporting patients to become more IT literate. This can now be done remotely. This offer was gratefully received and JM will be in touch once an opportunity arises.

E-Consult was discussed. Experiences were mixed. Questions can be bypassed if not relevant, or there is also an “Ask a Receptionist” option on the website.

Co-Chairs Report

PJ and TI have been meeting regularly and have been attending virtual meetings with the CCG.

The CCG will cease to exist at the end of March, and will turn into an Integrated Care Board. It was not clear what effect this would have.

Cirencester Health Group (CHG) PPG are planning a Health Event at the Market Place in June and have invited us (and other South Cotswold Practice PPGs) to be

involved. This will involve a number of stalls from qualified health professionals. The Phoenix Charitable Trust are contributing £200 towards the printing costs of advertising literature. There was agreement to be involved. PJ formed a small group of himself, DU, DB, CT, CS and LE to meet with members of the CHG PPG.

Any Other Business

LE highlighted issues with Chesterton Pharmacy which cause delays in collecting prescriptions. Their opening hours have also been reduced. NS suggested using an online prescription service instead. NS is happy to assist anyone who would like help in accessing this service at sethips@gmail.com.

Next Meeting – Weds 19th January, 2022 at 13.00pm. Face to Face or Online to be reviewed prior to the meeting.