

Patient Participation Group Meeting 25th October, 2023.

Attended via Microsoft Teams

Attendees : Chris Smith, Julia Maclean, Peter Hill, Freddie Charrington, Margaret Toms, Richard Moon, Donya Unwin, Mary Sheppard, Sindy Foster, Tony Fleming, David Pearson, Tom O'Brien, Joe Stokvis

Apologies : Peter Jay, Chris Tetley, William Peel, Roger Clark, Sarah Storer, Simon Barton, Colin Mutton, Douglas Butler, Mairead Anderson

Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting on Wednesday 6th September, 2023 were reviewed and approved.

Practice Report

New Partner Dr Emma McMyn started with the Practice at the beginning of September and is based at Tetbury. Dr Emma McMyn has previously worked at the Practice in both Salaried GP and Locum capacities and has taken on Dr Amy-Lou Douglas' patient list.

Dr Angie Allen, Salaried GP, who has been working across both Cirencester and Tetbury and providing additional cover when GPs are on annual leave is currently on maternity leave. Her role is being covered by Dr Katie Heil.

Dr Alex Dudley Cooke will be going on maternity leave in December. She currently works three days a week covering for GPs who are on annual leave. Her maternity cover will be provided by Dr Rohini Jadhav and Dr Paul Sherringham.

This year's joint Flu and Covid Campaign has been running since mid-September, with vaccinations being given at our surgery sites, moving from the Cirencester Hospital where they were held last year. The uptake has been good, and clinics are now booking in November.

Tetbury Premises – The planning application for the new build was turned down in July. Changes have been made to the application, which has been resubmitted by the Developer. The Appeal Hearing is on 8th November.

Cirencester Premises – We are working with Cirencester Health Group (CHG) to look at a joint premises. We have been told by the ICB that a single Practice building will not be financially viable. CHG has previously been done some work on potential plots of land in and around Cirencester. Due to possible roman remains in the area the Hospital site (the Rothschild area) has been ruled out. The Steadings is one possible site for a new build, which is being looked at.

PPG Co-Chair's Report

Constitution Approval/Adoption

This was previously circulated. Its approval was recommended. This was formally approved. JM will upload onto the PPG area on the website.

NHS Gloucestershire Primary Care Strategy Reference Group

Gloucestershire is in the final year of its current 5 year strategy and is now looking at its plan for the next 5 years. The Strategy Reference Group is made up of PPG representatives, one representative for each integrated care area. CS has been appointed as the representative for the Cotswolds. The next meeting is on 2nd November. The strategy will look at all Primary Care services. CS will be able to report back further after the meeting on 2nd November.

New Tetbury Planning Application – PPG Support

This has been discussed at previous meetings and the PPG is very much in favour of the application. Information has been circulated to PPG members together with details on how to support the application via the CDC Planning Portal. The PPG represents around 1% of the whole Practice population. CS and PJ have sent a letter in support of the application, which appears on the portal. Three e-mails were received by the PPG from people who are not PPG members objecting to the PPG letter as it had been interpreted that it implied the support of the whole Practice population. CS proposed adding a general comment on the portal to clarify that the PPG letter did not imply the support of the whole Practice population. PH agreed that the letter had been misinterpreted and the patients could join the PPG if they would like to feed into the PPG response.

Advent Event 25.11.23 – Cirencester Abbey – Update

CS is currently seeking confirmation of the arrangements. CS asked everyone who can to keep the date free and to let him know if they would be able to help.

Practice Survey – Update

This will be brought back to the next meeting.

Age UK (Concern) Gloucestershire

On a visit to Cheltenham Hospital CS was contacted by someone with a title something like a Discharge Advice Service Councillor who gave support on leaving the Hospital, which included information about Age UK. CS has been in touch with them and found them very helpful. CS will circulate their contact details. MS confirmed that she had also found them very helpful.

Any Other Business

CT asked that GP availability is kept up to date on the website. JM will have a look.

TF was called for a blood test, but there was no appointments available at Cirencester, which is his surgery. JM explained that the Practice is currently short

staffed and has been trying to recruit additional Phlebotomy time for the last few months, without success. An existing member of staff has now agreed to work additional hours and will shortly commence her training.

Cancer Sufferers – CS explained that cancer sufferers are entitled to free prescriptions.

RM raised the increasing use of IT in the interface between the Practice and patients. RM was concerned about how patients felt about dealing with this technology and how this affected patient care. CS explained that he will feed this into the Strategy Reference Group. TO supported RM's concerns. He explained that during Covid he had a video consultation, but this is no longer available. PH explained that this facility is no longer available. JM explained that the video consultations were funded centrally during the Pandemic, but this facility was withdrawn by the ICB after the Pandemic. TO asked that patients are made aware that they can upload photo images. PH explained that patients are asked to do this by the Receptionists when appropriate. Receptionists to be reminded of this facility and to inform patients. DP expressed concern over the emphasis on telephone calls and that symptoms could be missed, which could have been spotted in a face-to-face appointment. DP reported that some other Practices in Gloucestershire are using video consultations. He will see if he can find out more about this. JM will check with local Practices to see if they are using video consultations. CS suggested having this as a standing Agenda item. TF mentioned inconsistencies from different areas within the NHS. RM mentioned that it is possible for Carers to book medication via the NHS App, but this doesn't seem to be widely known. CS suggested linking this up with Age UK. Any other ideas should be submitted to the PPG e-mail. MS mentioned that she has an appointment at Gloucester Hospital, but received a pack of information about Cheltenham Hospital, which was sent in error and advised checking paperwork carefully.

Discussed how the recording of the meeting will be used. DU, who works in Information Governance, advised that images and dialogue of the meeting should not be circulated. It is useful to retain as a record of the meeting, but not for circulation. DU suggested checking with the Information Commissioner. CS will discuss with DU outside the meeting.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 10th January at 13.00pm