

Minutes of the meeting of the
Saltash Health Centre Patient Participation Group

Thursday 14th April 2022

Present: George Muirhead (Chair), Peter Clements, Sue Latham, Avril Tozer

Apologies: Stephanie Carter, Sue Mackenzie

1. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

Saltash Observer: PC had contacted the Observer about publishing news from the PPG. One article has subsequently been printed and another piece will be published prior to May Fair.

Treasurer: AT had not yet received funds from closure of the PPG bank account and was asked to contact Rose Edwards regarding this. GM indicated that there may be a need for some funding to be available to the Group in future and this can be discussed once the funds are transferred over.

Social Prescriber: AT had invited Mandy Thompson, Social Prescriber to the meeting but unfortunately she was unable to attend on 14th April.

Intercom: AT reported that the surgery was no closer to opening up but the decision is still under regular review. GM emphasised the importance to patients of a move back to "normality".

Recruitment of new members: GM had contacted Jennifer Smith who had expressed an interest in the Group. To date she had not responded but GM will follow this up.

Telephone system: AT explained that the Deputy Practice Manager had contacted MJOG regarding a demonstration of the system but had received no response. She will pursue this on return from leave.

3. Practice Update

AT reported that:

2 new Patient Care Co-ordinators had started and a new full-time Practice Nurse was joining on 9th May.

The Spring booster campaign would concentrate on housebound and care homes. The surgery may also consider running clinics for the over 75s. CCG-led Walk-ins for 5-11 year olds would be available at the Leisure Centre, with adult walk-in sessions in Plymouth.

The East Cornwall PCN were running a pilot scheme for lung health checks. There is a high incidence of smoking in this area. A company called In Health have been commissioned to carry out lung checks. They will be targeting 70-75 years olds who are smokers or have a history of smoking. Using data from records, patients will be identified and invited for a telephone or face to face meeting. A mobile unit will be available in the Leisure Centre car park for low dose CT scans. Clinics will run between May and September seven days a week.

The Practice afternoon closure on 23rd March was curtailed due to low attendance because of Covid. AT had approached the CCG and obtained approval to run a further session on Wednesday 11th May. AT is advising patients through the website etc. that the surgery will be closed that afternoon.

This year's flu cohorts have been agreed as over 65s and those at high risk.

A new F2 trainee, Dr Singh, has replaced Dr Francis.

A new Nurse trainee has joined the surgery for her in-practice training and a Phlebotomist who is training to become a Health Care Assistant.

GM asked about the level of clinical staffing. AT explained the difficulties caused by the time-lag in replacing the Nurse Practitioner, GP's fixed-term contracts finishing at the end of May and the problems finding locums to fill positions.

4. Feedback from Joint PPG Meeting

GM reported on a very positive meeting where the two Groups had agreed to work together on some shared priorities. In terms of getting more people interested the following had been agreed:

Representatives would Join Mandy Thompson, Social Prescriber, in the Community Kitchen at May Fair on 7th May and Saltash Town Councillors in Fore Street in June.

GM would contact Saltash School with a view to a discussion with students regarding health provision.

SL had made contact with the Saltash Family Hub which caters for up to 18 year olds. GM and SL will arrange a visit to Janet Morgan, business support, for similar discussions.

Topics of joint interest were agreed as St Barnabas Hospital and the health-related elements of the Neighbourhood Plan. Peter Thistlethwaite had contacted Kate Mitchell, co-ordinator of the feasibility study into St Barnabas, to confirm PPG support.

The joint group is meeting again on the 20th April 2022.

5. Feedback from the Umbrella Group

GM was unable to attend but had sent the minutes of our joint PPG to Julie Rogers, Co-ordinator, and asked her to update members.

GM remains sceptical about the number of groups that exist and what is being achieved. The chart of "How the funding flows through the NHS" was thought-provoking and GM wondered whether 'Admin v Clinical delivery' was something the group might jointly explore.

6. May Fair, joint stand

This was addressed in item 4. - see above.
PC and SL will attend a pre-meeting on 28th April.

7. invitations to next PPG meeting

AT will invite Mandy Thompson to the May meeting.

It was suggested by GM, and agreed by all, that a member of the practice, ideally a partner, should be invited to the June meeting. The purpose would be to briefly outline their role and the challenges they face and to discuss what the PPG might do to help overcome the challenges. AT will arrange this.

8. Any Other Business

GM said the most positive thing he had been involved in was working together with Port View. The Group agreed that this is the way forward for Saltash. AT said the CCG also think joint working is a good idea.

GM will contact potential new member Jennifer Smith once minutes of this meeting are available. AT will let SL have JS's email address.

9. Date and place of next meeting

Thursday 12th May 2022, 6.00 p.m. at Saltash Health Centre.

SL
17.4.2022.