

Bridgnorth Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st June 2016 at 6pm

at the Medical Practice

Present at the meeting were Eddie Conner [Vice Chair] Sandra Sutton [Practice Manager] Dr. Swallow, Suzanne Lawler [Minutes], Chris Garside, Margaret Cosh, Audrey Cashmore, Julia Davies, Keith Hayward, Julie Southcombe and Linda Lane.

- 1. Welcome and Apologies** – We welcomed Harpreet Juttla and there were apologies from Cecilia Walden, Peter Barclay and Rosa Smith.
- 2. Matters arising from the Minutes** Chris Garside had been in touch with the council about the puddle in the car park. They have agreed to look at it, but at present nothing much has happened apart from marking the area where the puddle collects.

Keith Billson from OSCAR had been contacted by email to arrange a date for a talk to the group about his work.

Julie Southcombe will be happy to take over the Health Awareness notice board duties if she could have some help in actually pinning up the notices.

- 3. Future Fit Update** – Harpreet Juttla from the CCG spoke about the current position regarding Future Fit. There had been a pause in the progress of the initiative due to the deficit sustained by the hospital trust. A plan was published in the New Year for retention of the two existing hospitals, one for emergency care and the other for planned care although which hospital was which has not been agreed. There would be an appraisal of the options, which could result in a preference. There would be a formal consultation in winter 2016/17, and a decision made by the two CCGs in Spring 2017. At the present time Shropshire has not approved Future Fit in its current form due to concerns about its effect on Primary Care and a meeting has been called on 29th June to discuss the Strategic Outline Case [SOC]. There will be more discussions with local care organisations to ascertain what needs to be commissioned to help Primary Care. If this is not approved the Trust can still go ahead with the plan, but would not be in a strong position.

The Rural Urgent Care Centres [RUCC] that were proposed as part of Community Fit will probably not go ahead as each rural area needs different services. A pilot scheme has been proposed for a prototype of community services to suit each area of which Bridgnorth may be a part.

There is a government requirement to produce a Sustainable Transformation Plan [STP], which has to work across Health and Social Care, if this is achievable there is access to funding, but the plan has to be submitted by 30th June. The tight time frame is because the relevant bodies have taken too long to come up with ideas for efficient bonding of agencies. This area has come up with a broad-brush plan with details to be ironed out later.

- 4. Patient Concerns** – Dr. Swallow attended the meeting to answer questions that had been put by the group.

Prescription Medicine Shortages – It was hard to predict supply and demand and the current ‘Just in Time’ ordering procedure by pharmacies was designed to cut down on storage problems. If a particular medicine is not available from one pharmacy then it may be obtainable from another one or on line. There are also usually alternatives that can be prescribed in an emergency although re ordering should be done at least a week in advance.

How safe is Shropdoc? – Shropdoc is safe for two years.

Can generic medicine changes be made without consultation with the patient? – Yes, it is a cost effective exercise and it is the duty of the GP to save public money wherever possible. Problems should be discussed with the GP.

How can the PPG help the Practice? This is not always straightforward, keeping the patient informed and educated on the changes within the NHS and the Practice is important. This can be done through open days, coffee mornings, stalls at local events. Surveys of what the patient experiences in Primary and Secondary Care.

Should a second doctor be present at the Disability Learning Clinic? Ideally this would be good, but practically there are not enough available doctors. It would be good for doctors new to the Practice be introduced to the patients through an article in the local newspaper or magazine.

Has the Practice found the two open mornings useful? – They were useful in informing patients of services in the area, but at the moment the Practice staff were overstretched and the organisation of such an event would be too much. It was suggested that an event could be organised by the PPG outside the Practice, perhaps a coffee morning at the hospital café or a stall at the Hospital Fete. This could be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

- 5. Practice Managers Update** – There are two new trainee doctors arriving in August, Dr. Goodall and Dr. Pride. There have been no applicants so far for the vacancy still outstanding. Severn Valley Country Park is raising money for a defibrillator.

- 6. PPG Constitution** – This has not been updated since 2013. The main areas for change were item 6 referring to the group’s affiliation with the National Association for Patient Participation [NAPP] to which the group no longer subscribes. Item 7a referring to the group meeting every 6 weeks should be changed to 8 weeks. It was also agreed to research the definition of a Quorum for the next meeting.

- 7. Shropshire Patients Group Update** – Healthwatch is looking for patients’ stories of ambulance service use. Email them at enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk

PRH Telford will introduce a new vehicle recognition car parking payment scheme in line with the SRH Shrewsbury.

SPG has reintroduced single chair organisation and the new chair is Nick Hutchins with Julian Birch and Jane Niblock as joint vice chairs.

The Practice has agreed to take part in a new Osteoarthritis service which involves patients first seeing a nurse to discuss general management before making referrals to hospital consultants.

8. **Any Other Business** – Eddie Conner proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Garside, a long-standing member of the group, for all his efforts and achievements. Chris is now leaving us to take up other interests. He has worked with 8 different PPGs and began with Bridgnorth in 2004 with Dr. Torkington in the High Street surgery. He has campaigned to keep the hospital and helped with the transition to the new site in 2007. He is enthusiastic about the excellent work the Practice does including helping him to get two new knees, overcome Polymyalgia and changed his life with the exercise on prescription initiative.

The eye specialist Dr. Tarin is no longer holding clinics at Bridgnorth due to a commissioning issue. Patients who wish to continue with him need to go to New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Linda Lane asked whether the group should invite St. John's Ambulance to talk to the group about first aid.

The Stroke rehabilitation ward at SRH has been closed and all stroke care has been centralised at PRH Telford.

9. Date of Next Meeting – 23rd August 2016