

# **Bridgnorth Medical Practice Patient Participation Group**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 at 6pm**

## **at the Medical Practice**

Present at the meeting were Cecilia Walden [Chair], Eddie Conner [Vice Chair] Sandra Sutton [Practice Manager], Suzanne Lawler [Minutes], Margaret Cosh, Audrey Cashmore, Julia Davies, Rosa Smith, Julie Southcombe, Wendy Barker and Linda Lane.

- 1. Welcome and Apologies** – We welcomed Dude Newell, Systems manager for the Practice and there were apologies from Peter Barclay and Keith Hayward.
- 2. Matters arising from the Minutes** – The Chair and Secretary signed the revised constitution as agreed by the group, which will be kept with the Practice Manager.

Suzanne Lawler researched the definition of a quorum as requested. The form is to divide the total membership giving one number greater than the other by one. At present 15 members represent the group, which gives a quorum of 9.

- 3. Practice Managers Update** – Staff changes – Dr. Philip Pride joined the Practice on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Drs Sally Goodall and Neil Broome have joined as registrars together with a new medical student, Luke Bradshaw. Jessica Breakwell is leaving and Sam Davies will be commencing maternity leave in September. Dani Faerber and Nicki Robins will be joining the reception team and Katy Ryan will join the admin team.

The sit and wait clinics each day are helping patients to see a doctor when needed although the number of appointments to book in advance has not improved. The partners will be reviewing the system over the next few weeks.

Flu season is approaching and Flu clinics will be starting on 8<sup>th</sup> October. The Practice would like to encourage the at risk groups: over 65s, those with long term conditions and pregnant women to have their flu vaccine. Any patient who does not wish to participate should let the Practice know so it can be recorded on their notes and avoid the necessity to keep contacting them.

Dude Newell and Julie Southcombe have met to discuss the health awareness notice board in the foyer. Julie has been contacting various groups so that a new topic can be highlighted each month. If anyone has any ideas for groups to contact please contact Julie or Dude.

- 4. Patient Concerns** – Margaret Cosh expressed concerns about the possibility of a CCG Disinvestment and Decommissioning Process. There is a significant deficit and the CCG needs to look at reconfiguration of commissioning. Various services have been identified for withdrawal of funding [Decommissioning] or ending of a service [Disinvestment] mainly because of small numbers of service users. Groups will be set up to assess the impact and report to CCG before final agreement. There has been criticism from action groups on the grounds of equality of service provision and lack of forward planning for Community Fit.

Some of the services are used by vulnerable groups of patients centred on the elderly, mental health and complex disabilities. Acute services will also be included.

5. Cecilia Walden wished to discuss the future of health care in our area with regard to patient accountability and responsibility. This was prompted by an article in the press suggesting that the patient has a part to play in using the NHS wisely and being informed on how to navigate the system correctly to save time and money. There was a discussion on how the Practice could help the patient do this and it was acknowledged that the Health Awareness board in the foyer was successful in promoting voluntary and self-help groups. It could also highlight the costs of healthcare, missed appointments, uncollected prescriptions and feature the work of the PPG to promote volunteering. The Practice could target vulnerable health groups such as diabetics and asthmatics to manage their conditions. A campaign to encourage the computer literate to use on line services for appointments and prescriptions could be started. A survey on access to the building for the partially sighted will be undertaken.
6. **Shropshire Patients' Group Update** – An SPG/CCG Networking event will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the Council Offices 5.30 – 7.30pm. There will be updates on Future Fit and Sustainability and Transformation Plans. Four places have been allocated to the PPG and Cecilia Walden, Suzanne Lawler, Julie Southcombe and Linda Lane will represent the group.

The SPG website is much easier to navigate and more informative than it used to be and the newsletter is very good. It is free to join at [www.shropshirepatientsgroup.org.uk](http://www.shropshirepatientsgroup.org.uk) follow the log in prompts.

7. **Any Other Business** – There will be a SE Network PPG meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm at Albrighton Library with a guest speaker.

Wendy Barker asked whether the local press could be contacted to promote the Practice and the work of the PPG. It was agreed that this does happen with regard to the Flu campaign, but that anything going to the press would have to be agreed by the Practice partners.

Eddie Conner reminded the group that there were only two more meetings until the secretary retires and that the post needs to be filled. Anyone who feels they could take on the task of preparing the minutes and the agenda for seven to eight meetings a year should contact the Chair or current secretary.

8. **Date of Next Meeting** – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016