

Minutes of the VALLEY MEDICAL CENTRE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING
Held on Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: Dr David Baron, Liz Sedgwick – Practice Manager

Patients: Jim Brackenridge, Chris Milnes, Cliff North, Margaret Derbyshire, Martin Brelsford, Barbara Horsman, Janet Kszton, Margaret Tatchell, Bev Fretwell, James Fisher, Anne Payne, Biz King

Apologies: Judy Pearson, Pauline Naylor

Introductions and apologies

Everyone was welcomed and thanked for coming. A round of introductions was made.

Minutes of meeting dated 23rd September 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising:

The practice had not continued with the Mjog texting and receiving service as there had been very little added benefit to the service already running.

The surgery staff are working on the Dementia Friendly training at the practice.

Services already running in the Valley

Barbara Horsman is a member of the Stocksbridge Community Forum and is keen to promote the many services already running in the Valley, particularly for the elderly and isolated members of our area. There are various luncheon clubs, Carers group, befriending, a dementia café to support carers and community gardening to name a few. A discussion was held on how to promote these services and raise awareness. There is an existing web site that provides all the contact details for these groups. www.stocksbridgecommunity.org. The practice will put a link on the website to this valuable local information source.

Junior Doctors Strike Action

Anne Payne asked about the impact that the junior doctors action may have on the services in primary Care. If operations had been cancelled and postponed this affects our patients who are attending secondary care (hospital) services but as General Practice has an independent contract the impact on the surgery services is minimal.

Access to Coded Medical Records on line

The practice is launching access to coded medical records. This is a new service which allows patients to see part of their medical record. This is in addition to the online appointments and prescribing service already available. The access does not include hospital letters, third party information or free text. The practice has produced a detailed leaflet of what the implications are for this service. Advice on keeping information safe and what to do if something is not understood. A patient requesting online services needs to complete an application form and provide appropriate identification. The records must then be checked before release. The turn around time is expected to be three weeks. NHS England suggest that members

of the patients group be asked to pilot this in the practice and give feedback. The group members agreed.

Family and Friends Comments report

Our practice has used the opportunity of the Friends and Family Test to canvas patient opinion in the practice. The numbers filling in the return have dwindled as it was unrealistic to expect patients to complete the form at every visit. We are pleased that 92% of our patient gave a positive response and only 8% were negative. Areas of comment have been acted upon – including changing the radio station and sourcing more female doctor appointments where possible.

Staffing at Valley MC

A new nurse has been appointed at Valley Medical Centre. Kate Heeley is a very experienced nurse and we are pleased to add her to our team. We have also recruited a new female GP to the surgery and are currently completing all the documentation.

Surgery Premises Update

As informed at the last meeting, the move to the new premises was halted but there continues to be discussions about the possibility of a truly integrated centre between Health and Social care. The practice is still exploring this with the NHS developers and the Local Authority as to whether this can be feasible.

Any other Business

Margaret Derbyshire advised the group of a new Health Strategy being developed for Stocksbridge and the Upper Don Valley. A University of Sheffield student is working on this to identify the health needs of the area. The practice has forwarded several documents including practice and area data to John Cornell who is involved, to assist with this project.

Date and Time of Next Meeting – Weds 21st September 2016