

**VALLEY MEDICAL CENTRE**  
**Minutes of Patient Participation Group Meeting**  
**Dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 6.30pm**

**Present:**

Practice Representative: Dr D Baron, Liz Sedgwick – Practice Manager.

Patient Representative: Jim Brackenridge, Janet Kszton, Margaret Derbyshire, Anne Payne, Chris Milnes and Judy Pearson.

**Apologies:** Cliff North, Jenny Mackinder, Joanne Telford

**1 Minutes of meeting dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

The minutes were agreed. An update from the minutes, the 111 service introduction has been postponed due to technical difficulties with the telephone systems.

**2 Patient Survey – 2013 Results**

The practice survey report was reviewed and discussed. It had been circulated for comment by email in March and is available on the website. The action plan was agreed as before, to continue to promote the group to all ages and to encourage greater use of online facilities.

The practice used the survey to promote other out of hours services and ask about use of A&E. It also included a provision for free text which provides more useful feedback than the simple yes and no answers. The telephone system came under scrutiny and on investigation there was a technical problem which has now been resolved.

**3 Surgery Development**

Stocksbridge is to undergo a major new development over the next couple of years both in terms of the Town centre and residential development. The increase in housing can potentially mean an additional 5-6000 residents who will need primary medical services. In order to provide a service to the extra numbers at least 2 new GPs will be needed. The practice has been looking at ways to expand and has considered a number of options. Although our surgery building was renovated 20 years ago, the new guidelines indicate that our premises are no longer fit for purpose.

Firstly we could renovate what we have which is cost prohibitive and would not provide us with any additional space. Secondly we could extend if we could purchase the land to the rear of the surgery. This has been refused several times.

Thirdly move into a new purpose built surgery in the new Town Centre Development. The latter is the preferred choice as this would be purpose built and allow for expansion and additional services in the valley.

The proposed plans for the third option were considered by the group who were very supportive.

#### **4 Intercare**

The practice is supporting the work of a charity called Intercare which provides medical aid for Africa. The charity can use surplus medication that is in date, dressings and surgical instruments. The practice is collecting these items on their behalf. There are certain drugs that they cannot take such as controlled drugs and certain drugs that contain hormones. The full list can be found on the website [www.intercare.org.uk](http://www.intercare.org.uk).

#### **5 Healthwatch Sheffield**

From April 2013 healthwatch Sheffield replaces the Local Improvement Network (LINK). The address remains the same. The website address for further information is [www.healthwatchsheffield.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchsheffield.co.uk).

#### **6 AAA Screening (Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm)**

The practice has been providing consulting room space for Doncaster Royal Infirmary to provide the AAA screening service for men in our area. This service is not managed or provided by the practice but is an example of how services can be brought closer to the patients home. At present they are holding two clinics per month.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

The question was asked about what is happening to GP referrals to the sports centre for exercise classes after it has closed. Unfortunately we don't have the answer but have assumed that the service will continue at Hillsborough.

#### **8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 6.30pm