

**VALLEY MEDICAL CENTRE**  
**Minutes of the Patient Participation Group Meeting**  
**18<sup>th</sup> April 2012 AT 6.30PM**

**Present**

**Practice representatives:** Dr D Baron, Dr R Bunn, Liz Sedgwick Practice Manager  
**Patient representatives:** Janet Kszton, Jim Brackenridge, Chris Milnes, Beryl Downs, Jenny Mackinder, Anne Payne and Judy Pearson

**Introductions and Apologies**

Everyone was thanked for coming and a round of introductions was made. Apologies were received from Irene Allen, Margaret Derbyshire and Cliff North. Ken Clark has sent his apologies and decided not to take part in future meetings.

**1. Minutes of meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and agreed as a true record. Matters Arising: Dr Baron referred to the item on text messaging. Earlier that day the practice has agreed to pilot text messaging, initially for blood tests for patients who have agreed to be contacted this way and a few clinics. A discussion followed where it was agreed that consent to this service is essential. Judy Pearson said that some people do not want to receive automated messages, particularly where they have mobility problems getting to the phone. It was reassuring that this would not be sent out without prior consent.

**2. Carers – provision and support**

Stocksbridge has a Community Care Group which meets on the second Wednesday of every month, between 1-3pm in the library. Its members are volunteers and provides support for carers. It also is a befriending service for people who are on their own and need a bit of company or a bit of help. It provides a valuable service to the local people. Leaflets and contact information is available in the surgery.

**3. Practice Boundaries ‘Choice of GP Practice’**

There is currently a pilot scheme being undertaken where patients will be able to register at any GP. Initially this is aimed at areas which have high numbers of commuters, where patients will be working age adults without significant Health problems and less likely to require home visits. However the Department of Health are intending to roll out this scheme to open up practice boundaries. This development is of concern but the outcome of the pilot has not yet been determined.

Valley Medical Centre covers a wide rural area and has patients from both the Sheffield and Barnsley PCT areas. The practice has been asked to outline an inner area and an outer practice boundary area where patients can move to and not have to register at another surgery. Patients will see a change of where the practice can cover when this has been agreed.

**4. Clinical Commissioning Groups – new NHS**

Sheffield has one Clinical commissioning group which has four locality areas for practical purposes. It is currently operating in Shadow form in preparation for April 2013. This legislation has been under much scrutiny which continues. Jenny asked how this will impact on patients. At this stage we still don't know but hope that it will be for the better by being able to bring services closer to the patients and improve areas where we know there are problems, ie Hospital discharges being better. The biggest impact will be on the

practice management of the budget. Many of the areas which the practice have responsibility for are outside its control, for example, the number of people who have emergency admissions. The practice can concentrate on inappropriate use of services such as calling for an ambulance unnecessarily or not turning up for appointments. The involvement of patient groups will be very important.

## **5. Diabetes Local Support Group**

Dr Baron has looked into the Daphne and Desmond courses but neither was they type of group we had been looking for. One was for newly diagnosed patients and one for Type 1 diabetics. Jenny had spoken to the Diabetes UK group but this seemed to be much more formal to set up as it required officers such as treasurer and secretary. Other sources of support for patients had been emailed to the manager and this information was given for further consideration.

## **6. Summary Care Record – Medication and Allergies**

The Summary Care Record is a national scheme to provide a record for all patients of their Medication and Allergies that can be shared between healthcare providers. This was intended to hold much more information but was reduced in scale when problems arose. Valley Medical Centre has successfully provided a summary care record for all the patients that wanted one.

## **7. Introduce Dr Rachel Bunn**

Our new salaried GP is Dr Rachel Bunn who came to introduce herself to the group. She was welcomed to the meeting and will be starting in the practice in May 2012. She told the group about herself and her interests including her role in Woodhead Mountain Rescue.

## **8 Any Other Business**

Jim asked about online ordering of prescriptions and that the system wont allow repeats to be ordered if a medication review is due. It was explained that this is a safeguard in the system and cannot be overridden. Other IT queries were raised but these were patient specific rather than general.

## **9 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the date and time of the next meeting will be Weds 20<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm. Liz asked the group if they would like to change the format of the meeting and have a guest speaker but the group was happy with the current format and prefer to keep it to one hour. Guests would be welcomed if we can fit in the agreed time frame.