

**Minutes of the PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING**  
**Held at VALLEY MEDICAL CENTRE on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 6.30pm**

**Present**

Practice Representative: Dr David Baron and Elizabeth Sedgwick, Practice Manager

Patient Representative: Jim Brackenridge, James Fisher, Cliff North, Margaret Tatchell, Janet Kszton, Margaret Derbyshire, Anne Payne

Apologies: Were received from Judith Pearson and Chris Milnes

There was a slightly different format this evening as we had a tour around the almost finished improvements to the practice prior to the meeting proper. The finishing touches to the waiting room, signage and patient call system is awaiting installation.

**Minutes**

The minutes of meeting dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were agreed as a true record. Matters Arising from the minutes – the new hub based at Burncross opened in June 2018. This is the closest hub to our area. To date no one has attended this clinic from our surgery according to the statistics. Secondly we were asked about the impact of GDPR on our practice. The most noticeable affect is that by removing the cost element of patients requesting copies of their records there has been an increase of requests from solicitors for potential litigation. ie no win no fee. This has had an administrative impact on our staff and increased our costs.

**Baby Clinic**

With the impending retirement of many health visitors and the slim lining of the service there are proposals to remove the weekly baby clinic from our surgery. Health visitors have already been removed from the Valley and this is regarded as another attempt to marginalise our area due to geographical distance. The doctors are challenging this decision as new parents need support.

**Neighbourhood Working**

We are continuing to develop our neighbourhood working with Deepcar and Oughtibridge. We are currently sharing a phlebotomist to provide home visits across the area, with funding being provided for a limited time to see how successful the project is.

Our practices have also volunteered to be a pilot base for a new method of combining the records of health and social needs to see if this accurately identifies patients at risk of being admitted to hospital.

**Pharmacist Contract**

Nationally NHS England is committed to supporting GP practices with the ever increasing workload. The scheme to allow GP practices to access support from a community pharmacist is being rolled out. Our practice is eligible for 24 hours of pharmacy support a week. The funding is on a sliding scale for three years with the NHS making a contribution to the cost. We will be having a pharmacist with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Seasonal Flu vaccinations**

The flu campaign has been hampered this year with the introduction of two different vaccines to be given to different age groups. There is only one supplier for the over 65 age group and there has been the inevitable problem with distribution. Our bulk of vaccines will be given from the beginning of November.

**WiFi**

We have had the national Wifi program rolled out across Sheffield. Unfortunately our practice is one where it only partially works.

**Staff Changes**

We have had various staff changes, retirements, staff moving on and maternity leave. Our longest serving assistant manager Chris is retiring at the end of October after 26 years. Tricia the second most senior member of staff is retiring at the end of November after 18 years. Both members of staff will be missed but we have been grateful for the amount of notice they provided to us and for waiting until the bulk of the renovation work has been completed. The group wished them well.

Our youngest apprentice has secured a full time position working within Mental Health services which she is thrilled about. Our secretary has a new role closer to home which fits in better with her family. We wish them all well.

**IAPT**

Our counselling service is also undergoing staff changes and we are struggling to find appointments for our patients until their recruitment is complete.

**Any other business**

Safe Space – We are looking at becoming a safe space for young people who may find themselves in trouble. The details have yet to be agreed but this can be updated next meeting.

**Making Sense of the NHS**

Cliff North informed the group about a very interesting course about the NHS and how it has evolved and its funding streams. It is produced by 'Future Learn' is free and lasts four weeks. This has been written by three members of staff at the Kings Fund

Date and Time of Next Meeting – April 2019