

The Grove Patients Group
Sherborne
Minutes
3rd.June 2020
3:00pm
(Meeting conducted using 'Zoom')

Present: David Bartle (DB), Jane Carling (JC1), Joan Cooper (JC2), Penny Gardner (PG), Alex Kimber (AK) (Managing Partner), Linda Manaton (LM), Roger Marsh (RM) (Chair), Tony Meehan (TM)(Vice Chair), Vicky Russell (VR) (Link Worker) and Alan Woodward (AW).

Apologies: Janet Little (JL) and Jane Wells (JW),

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first 'virtual' meeting of the group. He made the group aware that he had recently received the resignation of David Townsend from the group for personal reasons and he went on to state how David would be missed by the group for his involvement not only at meetings, but also other outside related activities.

1. Previous Minutes – 2nd.March 2020

a. Matters arising –

i. Community Orienteering:

Although a meeting had been arranged between Public Health Dorset and Gillingham Town Council to which DB was proposing to attend, it transpired that the meeting was cancelled due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

ACTION: ON HOLD

ii. Community Garden project:

VR updated the meeting on this Health Champions related project in that Sherborne Town Council had made a plot of land available at the McCreery Road site. In addition Magna Housing Association were also interested in becoming involved with the project. RM stated that he had recently discovered that the Co-op was open to grant applications through their 'Local Community Fund' and that he would forward details to VR.

ACTION: RM

iii Picnic in the Park:

The event proposed to be held in Sherborne in partnership with Natural Choices, Stepping into Nature and Active Dorset's Active Ageing project, had been postponed due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

ACTION: ON HOLD

2. Practice Update – AK

It was noted that the Sherborne Primary Care Network (PCN) had exhibited the lowest group of patients in the country that had been affected by the Covid-19 virus.

AK went on to outline details of how the Grove had been operating a 'Hot Site' to which patients were referred who exhibited symptoms of the virus. In addition the Practice had been using the facilities of telephone contact with patients and also an increase use of other facilities such as eConsult etc. It was

considered that the increased use of technology would result in changes to how the Practice worked in the future post Covid-19.

Regarding the alterations to the building, the new entrance had been in use although there was still some outstanding work to be completed.

3. PPG Activities:

TM reported that he and RM had put forward on behalf of the PPG, the Practice, Dr Rob Childs and Alex Kimber for awards under the national GP Annual Awards to be held in November.

RM reported that he had been working during the lock-down to publish information from both The Grove and The Apple Medical Centres onto the various Sherborne and surrounding villages Facebook groups and also sending the information to various local village Parish Council Clerks for dissemination within their communities. An email had been received from the Clerk of the Yeohed & Castleton Parish Council thanking the Grove Medical Centre for sending out regular and detailed information during the Covid-19 lock-down period. This had been passed to the staff at the Practice.

4. Reports

a. Review of The Grove PPG;

It was reported that an initial meeting had been held on the 10th.March in order to identify what the Grove Patient Participation Group (PPG) could do to augment patient participation, with a view to helping the Practice in its work with patients. This project was now on hold.

ACTION: AW/JL

b. Yeatman Hospital:

TM updated the meeting on the involvement of the Friends of the Yeatman Hospital (FOYH) in that work had been accomplished which was also supported by our local MP Mr Chris Loder in the provision of PPE and scrubs and scrub bags particularly to the Yeatman Hospital and also to the Hayes Care Home. Scrub bags had been delivered to virtually every local GPs' practice and care home.

In addition various financial aid had been given to 'Sherborne Viral Kindness' and the 'Yeovil Freewheelers' – Blood Bikers (voluntary blood transportation).

AK queried whether the FOYH could supply a quantity of face masks for the Grove Medical Centre such that they could be supplied to patients for a small donation. It was agreed to investigate by contacting Lynsley Withers (FOYH Administrator).

ACTION: TM

c. Sherborne All Together Better project:

The meeting by TM and RM with the Mayor and new Town Clerk to discuss next steps had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 lock-down.

d. North Dorset PPG Chairs Meeting: No meeting.

e. Happy Healthy You – Health Champions:

The Spring Clean Your Health' event to be held in the Digby Hall 21st.April had to be cancelled due to the Covi-19 lock-down.

f. Yetminster update:

Nothing to report due to loss of contact until full meetings of Health Champions resume.

g. Gryphon School:

Although volunteer Health Champions had made a start by meeting students with anxiety problems at the school, this was now on hold due to the Covid-19 lock-down.

h. Health Champions:

VR reported that meetings had resumed using Zoom, however she had been working from home of late and taking referrals from both the Sherborne PCN and also Sherborne Viral Kindness. Her work had involved setting up telephone links in the rural areas surrounding Sherborne and keeping in touch with those who were living alone to organise help for them, JC questioned the situation whereby many of the disadvantaged young had dropped away from education especially those from the newly named Harbour Vale School in Simons Road (originally known as the Sherborne Learning Centre). AK stated that under the PCN safeguarding framework many of these families were identified and were on the at risk list.

VR stated that there was a website that provided a link to digital Apps that those with specific health conditions could access to find helpful information. The details could be found at <https://www.orchha.co.uk/about-us/>

5. PPG Projects

a. Newsletter:

Although a Spring newsletter had been prepared the issue was overtaken by events relating to the Covid-19 virus. The meeting agreed that a Summer edition should be prepared based upon some of the material contained within the non-issued Spring edition. A meeting with AK to be arranged to discuss content. The target timescale for issue was agreed as the 1st.July.

ACTION: RM, TM, JC1 and JC2

b. Carers Support:

The Carer's Support directory was basically complete; however in the light of the Covid-19 events it required reassessment.

ACTION: JC1/PG

c. Who's Who 2020

Although The Sherborne Area Directory for Health and Care had been widely distributed prior to the Covid-19 lock-down there was still a wide area of Sherborne that hadn't been covered. TM suggested that it could be distributed with a future issue of the Sherborne Times magazine. TM agreed to investigate.

ACTION: TM

d. Bereavement:

Although JL was unable to join the meeting she had updated RM by email stating that she had hoped to get something up and running by the autumn but the work was now on hold due to the Covid-19 lock-down.

ACTION: JL

e. Listening Table:

RM reported that although he had forwarded the 'Listening Table' protocol to AW on the 11th.March all activity was on hold at present.

f. Sherborne Girls:

- i. TM reported that the survey of The Grove services across senior girls had started but again this was another project in suspension. It was agreed to determine what progress had been made and the possibility of its resumption.

ACTION: TM

6. Apples Update:

RM stated that he had taken part earlier in the week in the first virtual Apples PPG meeting using Zoom. Both Jules Bradburn (Sherborne Viral Kindness) and Gill Foott (PPG Co-ordinator CCG) had taken part in the meeting. Both had given an

update on their specific roles. Jules gave the meeting a full run down on the activities carried out by volunteers and she raised the point that they were finding that many of the residents who were self-isolating were confused by the mixed messages they were receiving with regard to the lifting of the Covid-19 lock-down. She felt that it was going to be difficult to get many back out into the community. Jill Warburton gave additional details on the work of providing local residents with meals from the Sherborne Kitchen that had been operating out of the Digby Hall.

Gill Foott explained to the meeting that she had taken over from Keith Harrison in her PPG co-ordinator role. She noted that many PPG were using the digital media such as Zoom to hold meetings. She also advised that the week commencing the 1st.June was PPG Awareness Week and she would be contacting PPGs and asking them to make a 30 second video to promote their own PPG.

7. AOB:

- a. PG raised the fact that Sherborne Churches Together had been operating a befriending telephone service during the Covid-19 lock-down and suggested that VR as Link Worker might consider making contact with them.
- b. RM reported that he had now received the results of the CCGs Patient Survey relating to primary care services during the Covid-19 period and he agreed to circulate to PPG members for information. **ACTION: RM**
- c. RM stated that he had joined a Q&A live Facebook session run for patients by the Blackmore Vale Partnership. AK stated that she had joined one of the sessions also. The consensus was that a short Q&A video that could be published on Facebook would better serve the purpose.
- d. RM questioned how the PCN would handle the additional requirements laid down in Directed Enhanced Service relating to patients in care homes due to the fact that there are around 10 care homes in the locality. AK stated that the requirements are already being met by the practices within the PCN.
- e. A short discussion ensued relating to the subject of providing a Covid-19 vaccination for patients when the situation arose and how this would be handled. AK felt that there would be Government guidelines flowed out via the CCG to which they would have to adhere.

Date of next meeting:

It was felt that holding a meeting via Zoom digital platform had been successful and as such it was agreed to hold a further meeting by the same method on **Wednesday 16th.July at 3.00 pm.**