



The Grove  
Medical Centre



Patient Participation Group



Annual Report – October 2021



# Introduction

The Grove Patient Participation Group (PPG) was established in July 2019 following the merger of the Bute House and Newland medical practices.

The PPG is a mutually supportive group of patients, health care workers, together with the lead and managing partners of the Practice that meet regularly to:

- Ensure the views of patients are heard
- Support the Practice to make positive changes
- Support the Practice in helping patients to play a greater role in their own health.

# The Grove – Patient Participation Group

## Your Committee:

Roger Marsh – Chair

David Bartle – Vice Chair

Arabella (Student – Sherborne Girls)

Emily (Student – Sherborne Girls)

Cllr Jane Carling

Joan Cooper

David Crothers

Tony Gordon

Tony Meehan

Dr Rob Childs (Clinical Director – Sherborne Area Primary Care Network)

Alex Kimber (Managing Partner)

Vicky Morland (Social Prescribing Link Worker)

Vicky Russell (Social Prescribing Link Worker)

# The Grove – Patient Participation Group

## The Continuing Challenge

The Covid-19 pandemic has continued to dominate activities over the past year with patient safety being a major concern for the Practice. This has not only affected patients but also the way the Medical Practice has operated in order to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus which has resulted in an increased use of digital technology with face to face appointments still being made available.

Regarding digital technology, patients have raised concerns over the use of eConsult and we understand that this particular form of consultation is presently under review.

The latter part of 2020 was dominated by the flu clinics at which members of the Patient Participation Group, along with patient volunteers helped out with car parking etc.

No sooner had the flu clinics been completed when the Covid-19 vaccination clinics at the Digby Hall started. The Practices of the Sherborne Area Primary Care Network came together to administer over 29,000 doses of the vaccine at 27 clinics between early January until the end of July with over 80 volunteers helping out in wind, rains and all kinds of weather.

We have now started all over again with this year's flu jabs and Covid booster vaccinations being planned. It is anticipated that these clinics will be held into November.

# **The Grove – Patient Participation Group**

## **Patient Participation Group – Activities**

### **Sherborne School for Girls – Student PPG Members**

Our two student PPG members conducted a survey relating to the use of eConsult, the online consultation facility for patients. They were particularly interested in its use and accessibility within the 16–17 year-old age group. The students produced an extremely comprehensive report that was forwarded to NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for consideration. Subsequently Simon Longman – Head of Digital Commissioning for the CCG stated that they will be using the report as part of their future digital procurement activities.

### **Military Veterans**

The Grove Medical Centre is a ‘Veteran-Friendly Accredited’ Practice. In recognition of the special needs that some patients who are military veterans may have, your PPG has produced a ‘Military Veterans and Family Health’ Directory. A version of the directory has been made available on the Grove website and paper copies are also available. In addition, we have been working to form a local ‘Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club’ a valuable opportunity, and a chance for veterans to chat and ‘return to the tribe’. The first of these events was held on the 25th. September and was attended by 30 Military Veterans. Further events are being planned.

### **Sherborne Town Council**

Your Patient Participation Group makes a regular report on its activities to every monthly meeting of Sherborne Town Council. This is particularly important as the Government’s ‘Health & Social Care’ Bill requires both the NHS and local government to work closely together as an ‘Integrated Care System’.

# The Grove – Patient Participation Group

## Patient Participation Group – Activities

### **Cancer Awareness Webinar**

The Patient Participation Group worked with NHS Dorset Macmillan Cancer Support in July to produce a Cancer Awareness Webinar to give an awareness of help in cancer prevention, and increase the number of people who are diagnosed earlier. In addition your PPG is working with the local health volunteers to set up a cancer support group in Sherborne.

### **Local Plan**

The Patient Participation Group took part in the Sherborne Town Council meeting that discussed the details of the Local Plan for Sherborne. Besides making sure that the Council's response to the local plan mentioned the lack of increased medical facilities in relation to the proposed increase in housing, the PPG made its own submission on the plan to Dorset Council.

### **Orienteering Course for Sherborne**

The Patient Participation Group is working with Public Health Dorset, Wessex Orienteers and Sherborne Town Council to provide an orienteering course around the town. Locally both Sturminster Newton and Gillingham have recently opened courses. The aim of the course is to encourage outdoor exercise activity for people of all ages and ability. Funding has been achieved to enable the project to proceed.

# The Grove – Patient Participation Group

## Patient Participation Group – Activities

### Newsletters

Communicating with our fellow patients to keep everyone informed on health news is a priority for the PPG. We achieve this in several ways by using social media, emails, the practice website and regular newsletters.

Your Patient Participation Group has produced four editions of the Grove Newsletter in the past twelve months.

Each edition has featured COVID-19 updates, answering frequently asked questions relating to guidance on how things have changed and how the Practice continues to meet the needs of its patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our PPG committee member Joan Cooper has continued with her articles entitled 'A View from the Waiting Room' which has appeared in each of the editions.

The newsletter has carried articles on the work by volunteers at the Flu Clinic, Covid Clinic and the work in the garden at the Grove Medical Centre.

In addition it has reported on the peer group survey conducted by our student PPG members Arabella and Emily on the subject of eConsult.

### Friends of the Yeatman Hospital (FOYH)

Your Patient Participation Group has been working closely with the FOYH to get the Minor Injuries Unit at the Yeatman Hospital reopened following its closure due to the Covid pandemic. However, this work continues to resolve an ongoing problem relating to appointment accessibility.

# The Grove – Patient Participation Group

## Patient Participation Group – Activities

The PPG has held 9 meetings during the year using Zoom video conferencing facility.

### In the past year the Grove PPG activities include:

- Review of new patient services
- Mental Health – new partnerships between the organisations that meet health and care needs.
- Cancer Awareness campaign
- Review of Primary Care services to meet the needs of a growing local population.
- Carers Support Group – Review of service pathways
- Production of editions of the Grove Newsletter
- Distribution of health related information to patients via social media during Covid-19 lockdown
- Liaison with Apples PPG
- Work in conjunction with local health related volunteers
- Support for military veterans
- Promote health and wellbeing activities
- Support the Grove Medical Centre at Covid-19 and flu vaccination clinics
- Work locally with Sherborne Town Council as part of the ‘Integrated Care System’
- Orienteering Course for Sherborne project



# **The Grove – Patient Participation Group**

## **Your Patient Participation Group – Representation on Other Groups**

- North Dorset PPG Chairs Group
- NHS Dorset CCG Public Engagement Group
- Sherborne Area ‘Health Champions’
- Sherborne Town Council
- Friends of the Yeatman Hospital

# The Grove – Patient Participation Group



**Volunteers at th Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics  
held at the Digby Hall, Sherborne**

# **Your Patient Participation Group**

The Patient Participation Group is totally committed to maintaining and improving services to the Grove Practice. We would welcome new members with new ideas and particularly younger patients who can spare some time. Do come along and see at first hand the enthusiasm and commitment of the members!

On behalf of the Grove – Patient Participation Group

We thank the patients and staff of the Grove Medical Centre for their support during the past year.

For details of The Grove Medical Centre – Patient Participation Group see:  
<https://www.thegrovemedcentre.co.uk/patient-participation-group-index>

## **The Grove Medical Centre – Patient Participation Group**

Roger Marsh

Chair

David Bartle

Vice - Chair