

The Grove Patients Group
Sherborne
Minutes
20th.January 2021
3:00pm
(Meeting conducted using 'Zoom')

Present: Vicki Addey **(VA)**; David Bartle (Vice Chair) **(DB)**; Jane Carling **(JC1)**; Joan Cooper **(JC2)**; David Crothers **(DC)**; Bruce Duncan (Chair – Apples PPG) **(BD)**; Gill Foott (Engagement and Communications Coordinator [PPGs]) **(GF)**; Roger Marsh (Chair) **(RM)**; Tony Meehan **(TM)**; Vicky Morland (Social Prescriber) **(VM)**; Vicky Russell (Social Prescriber) **(VR)**; Alan Woodward **(AW)**; Arabella and Emily (Sherborne Girls – students).

Apologies: Dr Rob Childs **(RC)**, Alex Kimber (Managing Partner) **(AK)**; Tony Gordon **(TG)**.

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the sixth 'virtual' meeting of the group. He gave a special welcome to both Sherborne Girls students Arabella and Emily and also David Crothers who were attending their first meeting of the group.

As a general comment prior to discussing the business of the meeting, the Chair (RM) stated that due to the fact that since the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine in early January the Practice, including both medical and administration staff, had been extremely busy in arranging and providing vaccination clinics for our patients. As this was likely to be the situation for the foreseeable future he requested that any contact with the Practice by members relating to PPG matters should only be through him. This was agreed by the meeting.

Action: All to note.

1. Previous Minutes – 9th.December 2020

a. Matters arising:

i PPG introduction to Sherborne Girls students:

As an introduction for both Arabella and Emily into the PPG it was agreed that (TM) would contact Mrs McIntosh at Sherborne Girls School to set up a separate meeting between the parties to explore a suitable health related project on which both students could work. **Action: (TM)**

ii eConsult webinar:

(RM) reported that he had circulated the invitation for PPG members to take part in the webinar to discuss future changes to the eConsult system. In addition he had sent an invitation to Cllr. Robin Legg who had expressed an interest on the subject at the October Annual Meeting of the PPG.

Action: CLOSED

2. Practice Update – AK

a) General Update:

In the absence of (AK), (RM) reported that he had received an update regarding the Practice as follows:

At the practice, we continue to operate as before with a telephone triage system for GP appointments with the GPs bringing in for face to face appointments for all those that need to be seen on clinical grounds. Similarly our long term conditions management for conditions such as asthma, diabetes and COPD is mainly being carried out through telephone consultations except for the need to bring patients in for their blood tests or other necessary procedures. Our nursing appointments for vaccinations, wound care and cervical smears is carrying on face to face within covid-safe practices. As we are currently in lockdown, whilst all necessary precautions are being taken, we have postponed some of our routine care (for things such as general monitoring) where it is safe to push this back a month or so. Obviously anyone needing to be seen, will be. This also allows us to release workforce to staff the vaccination clinics as we can't expect the vaccination clinics to continually run on overtime as our staff will burn out.

Following Leah's departure (our former Nurse Practitioner) we are looking to recruit to replace her, not with a ANP but with an additional part time GP. In the interim, Dr Chris Cleaver will be doing an additional day a week for us during February and we welcome Dr John Geeson as a locum from the middle of February to support us, initially for 1 day a week during February and then 2 days a week in March.

We are also recruiting to our entry-level dispensary assistant post following Emily's departure in a couple of weeks.

b) Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic:

Similarly to the Practice update, in her absence (AK) had provided a written update as follows:

Our focus is clearly on the covid vaccination clinics and ensuring we are running these very well. We are on track to have made contact with all of our over 80s by the end of today Tuesday (each practice has had a handful that we've been unable to contact by phone so have sent them letters inviting them to the clinic on Saturday morning and to call us to confirm – we suspect these are either currently staying elsewhere or are in hospital). We have also vaccinated approximately 150 frontline health care staff. This has included our care home staff, local opticians and dentists, the staff at the Yeatman Hospital and the staff from care agencies such as Candlelight Care and other care agencies. We are doing a further 100 frontline health staff on Saturday morning and the last few of our over 80s. We are now well into inviting our 75-79 year olds both on Saturday and for the following week (we've literally just heard we have another 800 vaccines arriving Thursday 28th so will be running a full day of clinics on Friday 29th).

We are fortunate to have received many offers of support from former clinical staff who have retrained and reregistered with their healthcare registering body in order to give vaccinations. This is helping us with regards workforce for the vaccination clinics but clearly the additional workload of these clinics which will be running for many months is a challenge for the practices to manage.

3. PPG Activities Since Last Meeting:

- 12 Dec - Last Flu Clinic volunteering
- 14 Dec - Public Engagement Group Meeting
- 31 Dec – Primary Care Network Meeting
- 13 Jan – North Dorset PPG Chairs Meeting
- 3 Health Champions Meetings
- Sent out 9 information updates to patients and parish councils
- Numerous posts on Facebook
- PPG members had volunteered at 4 Covid-19 vaccination clinics
- ‘Virtual’ PPG Members list now totals 95

4. Reports:

a) Yeatman Hospital – Friends of the Yeatman Hospital (FOHY):

i) Hospital Matron:

(TM) reported that Barbara Ludlow had recently been appointed as the new matron at the hospital and that she has initially been appointed for 3 months. Previously she had held the position of Senior Sister at the Yeatman Hospital.

ii) Minor Injuries Unit:

The update on the situation regarding the MIU at the Yeatman Hospital appeared not to have changed since the previous PPG meeting in that the MIU for the Sherborne area was still operating out of the Westminster Memorial Hospital in Shaftesbury. Furthermore the FOYH media group were in the process of counter-acting a local rumour that the Yeatman Hospital was going to close.

iii) FOYH Website:

The FOYH website was being updated to make it more user-friendly.

iv) FOYH 70th.Anniversary:

Plans were underway regarding events through 2021 to mark the 70th.Anniversary of the FOYH which officially starts in July and will be ongoing for twelve months. A programme of events was under discussion with the local schools and trades in both Sherborne and the surrounding area. It was hoped that the celebrations will culminate in a public event in 2022.

v) Media request:

A request had been made by the local radio Abbey FM for a person to go on air to give an update on the local situation regarding Covid-19 and the vaccination clinics. This request had now been passed up to NHS Dorset CCG for action.

(DB) questioned the latest situation regarding the wards occupancy, but although details were not available it was felt that the hospital was full with staff absolutely fatigued.

(VR) stated that the outpatient department was working at a reduced level at present and only dealing with urgent cases. However, the hospital was Covid-19 clear at present.

b) Sherborne Town Council (STC):

A PPG report was submitted to STC for their meeting on the 18th.January 2021. (JC) stated that the regular report was welcomed by the Council and it

was queried by council members whether a report could also be provided by the Apples PPG.

The PPG discussed the viability of this request and following discussion it was agreed that (BD) would provide additional information relating to the Apples PPG as and when appropriate such that this could be included in the monthly Grove PPG report to the STC.

Action: (BD)/(RM)

c) North Dorset PPG Chairs Meeting Update:

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 13th.January to be circulated when available.

Action: (RM)

(RM) reported that Keith Harrison had attended the meeting where the role of Health Champions in relation to PPGs had been discussed.

d) Health Champions:

(VM) stated that the restart of local health walks was still in abeyance due to the renewed Covid-19 restrictions, however walk leader training had taken place on the 11th.December 2020.

Work was continuing with one to one befriending and also telephone friendship groups for isolated people.

A further meeting was scheduled for the 28th.January 2021.

e) CCG PPG Lead Report:

(GF) reported that the PPGs across the county were all involved with Covid-19 vaccination clinics and there had only been a few minor teething problems with timing and patients having to wait longer than expected, but all seemed to be working well.

The CCG were using various media platforms to get information out to patients, especially asking them to wait for an appointment and not to phone their medical practice. In addition ways of communicating with those patients who are classed as 'digitally deprived' were being investigated.

f) CCG Public Engagement Group (PEG):

(RM) reported that the meeting scheduled for the 15th.December 2020 to review the new Mental Health Integrate Care proposals had taken place and that the Design and Modelling High Level Model Phase was on track with the next phase being NHS Approval and Assurances during February – March.

The meeting also had 'You said, We did' feedback from Dorset Council, about their website, the session that was had on Winter Pressures and also Engagement principles and the work to standardise the approach across the ICS system.

The meeting then heard from several PEG members about their involvement on groups, committees and boards both locally and nationally across the health and care system.

5. PPG Projects:

a) Carers Support:

(JC1) had agreed to set up a meeting with (VM) to discuss the future need for the directory that had been produced.

Action: (JC1)

b) Bereavement:

(RM) reported that the work to set up a bereavement support group had now been allocated to the 'Sherborne Area Community Kindness' Group to be actioned as Covid-19 restrictions would allow.

Action: All to note

c) Winter Newsletter:

(RM) reported that he had produced a draft version of the newsletter that had included the latest 'View from the waiting room' article provided by (JC2). It was agreed that the draft copy would be forwarded to (TM) and (JC2) for editing with a target issued date of the end of January.

Action: (RM)

d) Future Projects:

(RM) stated that he had circulated a list of future project for PPG members to consider such that as and when the situation gained some form of normality we would be prepared as a PPG to move forward in an effective way.

(VA) felt that with the anticipated rise in alcoholism due to the Covid-19 lockdown there could be a need to organise an alcohol awareness session for patients at a future date. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda for future meetings.

Action: All to note

6. Apples PPG Update:

(BD) reported that the next PPG meeting was scheduled for the 25th.January and that similar to the Grove PPG much time had been involved with the recent Covid-19 vaccination clinics.

(BD) expressed concern about the amount of misinformation that was reaching patients which was causing concern. He felt that post-Covid-19 practices would be working differently and it was necessary that new ways of communicating with and reaching patients would be required.

He also felt that with the shortage of medical staff that PPGs could play an active role in promoting the career opportunities that there were in the health service at all levels.

7. Any Other Business:

a) Dorset Local Plan:

(JC1) raised the fact that the Dorset Local Plan had just been published and that it was totally lacking in any mention of local infrastructure or additional healthcare facilities associated with the 2000 new houses to be built in the area over the next 5 years. She stated that as a PPG we need to keep aware of this fact.

Action: All to note

Post meeting note: See <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan/the-plan/pdfs/dclp-jan-2021-vol-2-northern-dorset.pdf>

b) Dorset Council purchase of St Marys School site Shaftesbury:

(JC1) stated that she believed that Dorset Council had purchased the site and buildings of St Marys School in Shaftesbury. (DC) confirmed that this was the case and that the site had been purchased for £10.05M. It was intended that a possible use could be for a range of community services.

c) Younger persons involvement:

A general discussion took place regarding the present pressure experienced by young people and both Arabella and Emily welcomed a future opportunity to discuss the subject with the existing PPG members, especially around mental health issues. In addition the PPG members were mindful that as new members attending their first meeting various aspects were new to them and that the PPG should help by providing them with information regarding the function of various bodies within the health service.

Post meeting note: (RM) has forwarded to Mrs. McIntosh, for passing to both Arabella and Emily, a detailed index of health related acronyms and a schematic diagram of the total health and care system.

d) Future of the GP Practice:

(JC2) was concerned that post Covid-19 our medical practices were going to be operating differently. In addition she was concerned about patient's perception of the surgery at present where it looked as though it was functioning in a reduced way. She felt that a means was needed to assure patients that the medical practice was still there for them and maybe a welcoming notice was required on the door to say that 'we are still here for you'.

8. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 3rd.March 2021 at 3.00 pm. using Zoom video conferencing.