

The Grove Patients Group  
Sherborne  
Minutes  
3<sup>rd</sup>.March 2021  
5:30pm  
(Meeting conducted via 'Zoom')

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

Apologies: Vicky Morland (Social Prescriber) (**VM**).

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the seventh 'virtual' meeting of the group and he thanked members for accommodating the revised later meeting time.

**1. Previous Minutes – 20<sup>th</sup>.January 2021**

**a. Matters arising:**

**i Health related project - Sherborne Girls students:**

(TM) stated that he had met with Mrs. McIntosh (Sherborne Girls School) to discuss the details of a suitable health related project to be conducted by students Arabella and Emily. The project would involve a review of eConsult for its usefulness, difficulties and suggested improvements.

**Action: (Arabella and Emily)**

**ii Apples information for STC monthly report:**

(RM) reported that as requested he had consulted with (BD) regarding inclusion of relevant information of the Apples PPG into the monthly report to Sherborne Town Council and that the last report had been written accordingly as would all future reports.

**Action: CLOSED**

**iii Circulate PPG Chairs Report:**

(RM) stated that the report of the PPG Chairs meeting held in January had been circulated to PPG members.

**Action: CLOSED**

**iv Carers Support meeting:**

It was reported that the intended meeting between (JC1) and the Social Prescribers had still to take place.

**Action: (JC1)**

(RM) stated that the Leonardo Trust had produced a 'Dorset version' of the booklet for carers entitled 'If Only I'd Known That' by Susan Hartnell-Beavis and copies could be obtained by contacting the Trust on 01202 022932 or email at [info@leonardotrust.org](mailto:info@leonardotrust.org)

**v Winter Newsletter:**

(RM) reported that the newsletter was published on the 18<sup>th</sup>.February and it had been sent by email to all 'virtual PPG members', posted on the

various local Facebook Groups, added to the Grove website and copies placed in the surgery.

**Action: CLOSED**

## **2. Practice Update – AK**

### **a) General Update:**

(AK) reported that the Practice had seen an increase in patients either visiting the Practice or having remote consultations and the GPs had been very busy. The Practice was still having to operate under restricted conditions to triage patients as well as cope with Covid-19 vaccination clinics. The Practice had recruited a new Dispensing Assistant and also a new member of the Patient Services team, both since the previous PPG meeting. The Practice was now in the process of looking for Health Care Assistant cover for the member of staff who was about to go on maternity leave. It was also noted the Dr Aimee Barnes would shortly be returning to the Practice following maternity leave. (RC) stated that although the Practice had recently lost the services of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner the duties were being covered adequately by the GPs. It was also reported that Dr Cleaver was conducting 4 to 6 sessions per week and this would reduce when Dr Barnes returned.

### **b) Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic:**

Firstly (RM) thanked (RC) for his weekly updates for patients regarding the Covid-19 vaccination clinics. The weekly news updates had been much welcomed by patients with lots of positive feedback.

(RC) stated that the next vaccination clinic to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup>.March would be busy in that it was intended to vaccinate 1600 patients in a one-day period. He went on to say that the uptake of vaccinations by patients had been extremely good in that 9476 patients had received a vaccination since the start in January. (RC) explained that patients of 50+ years and various vulnerable patients had been categorised into 9 cohorts and that those remaining in cohorts 5 and 6 would be vaccinated on the 4<sup>th</sup>.March. The uptake by patients had been extremely good with 99.3% of over 80's; 97% of health and social care workers; 99% 75 – 79 year olds; etc. taking up the vaccine. However, it was felt that the younger age cohorts would see a less favourable take up of vaccinations. It was expected to get cohorts 7, 8 and 9 completed by the end of March (if allowed) against a target date of the middle of April.

(VA) commented on the fact that she was able to book an appointment for almost any time at the Bath & West Showground site. It was felt that the younger cohorts should also be encouraged to use similar mass vaccination centres which could be more convenient to them.

(AW) asked about the position regarding the second vaccination for patients. (RC) stated that it would be dependent upon the supply of Pfizer vaccine and the dates may vary from the 12 weeks originally planned such that for various reasons some of the over 80's patients may not be available for vaccination therefore other may receive their second vaccination earlier than anticipated.

### 3. PPG Activities Since Last Meeting:

- Apples PPG meeting
- eConsult webinar
- Newsletter meeting with Tony Meehan & Joan Cooper
- Meeting with Bruce Duncan & Tony Meehan re Yeatman MIU
- Attendance at CCG Public Engagement Group meeting
- Attendance at North Dorset PPG Chairs meeting
- Attendance FOYH Executive Committee meeting
- Production of report for February STC meeting

### 4. Reports:

#### a) Yeatman Hospital – Friends of the Yeatman Hospital (FOYH):

##### i) FOYH 70<sup>th</sup>.Anniversary:

(TM) reported that plans were underway regarding events through 2021/2 to mark the 70th. Anniversary of the FOYH which officially starts in July and will be ongoing for twelve months. A programme was under discussion with the local schools and trades in both Sherborne and the surrounding area about something relating that would fit into their curriculum. Richard Hunt – Chairman of Hunts Foods had agreed to be the Patron for the anniversary year.

##### ii) Funding:

The FOYH had recently agreed to make funds available for various equipment items that would aid the work with patients by the District Nurses and additionally the purchase of 'Dermalight 80 Tester' for use in the Physiotherapy Department. However, (TM) reported that other capital project were on hold at present.

##### iii) Minor Injury Unit (MIU):

The update on the situation regarding the MIU at the Yeatman Hospital had moved on in that a letter had been received from the Chairman of Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust stating that the MIU would reopen at the Yeatman Hospital but the date had yet to be determined.

##### iv) Trustees:

The FOYH were reviewing the position of trustees as some existing trustees were retiring.

#### b) Sherborne Town Council (STC):

##### i) Sherborne Town Council 15<sup>th</sup>.February 2021:

As previously stated the wish by STC for the PPG report to cover both the Grove and Apples PPG activities had been implemented. **Action: CLOSED**

##### ii) Sherborne Local Plan:

Led by (JC1) the PPG discussed the outline details of the recently published Local Plan for Sherborne produced by Dorset Council. (JC1) encouraged the PPG to make comment on the Plan especially concerning the lack of provision for additional healthcare facilities to meet the growing local population. (RM) stated that he would be attending the STC meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>.March that was to discuss the subject.

It was agreed that the PPG would send a letter of concern regarding the Local Plan to Dorset Council by the closing date of the 15<sup>th</sup>.March.

**Action: (RM**

**iii) North Dorset PPG Chairs Meeting Update:**

(RM) reported that the most recent meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup>.February had as its guest speaker Nicky Murdoch MBE who gave a presentation on the Armed Forces Patient Public Voice Group (AFPPVG). It was noted that the Grove Medical Centre was a 'Military Veteran Accredited Surgery' and that Dr Dangerfield had related responsibilities within the Practice.

It was agreed that as a PPG we should investigate how we could better relate to those patients from a military background. **Action: All to note**

**(Post Meeting Note:** Subsequent to the meeting Nicky Murdoch MBE has contacted N.A.P.P. to affiliate the AFPPVG).

**iv) Health Champions:**

(VR) stated that the restart of local health walks was still in abeyance due to the renewed Covid-19 restrictions.

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

In addition she stated that the health champions were looking at joining a local community orchard project.

(VA) stated that her husband had made approaches to Sherborne Town Councillor Vaughan Coleridge-Matthews regarding the setting up of a 'Men's Shed' facility. (JC1) stated that the STC were aware of this. (JC2) also stated that they had a successful 'Men's Shed' project running at Sturminster Newton.

(JC1) stated that work was ongoing regarding a 'Community Fridge' project within Sherborne.

**v) CCG PPG Lead Report:**

(GF) reported that the PPGs across the county were all involved with Covid-19 vaccination clinics and they appeared to be working well.

It was noted that the 6<sup>th</sup>.Stakeholder Update had recently been published by the CCG. (Note copies circulated to Grove PPG members).

The CCG Communication Team was working with volunteer groups to ensure that information was reaching those who are not online.

**vi) CCG Public Engagement Group (PEG):**

(RM) stated that the meeting welcomed four new youth members of the National Citizens Service who had been recruited as members of the PEG. He also reported on the meeting scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup>.February where a presentation was made regarding an Adult Social Care survey asking members of the PEG to comment on its suitability.

In addition an update was given by Ben Norman – CCG Head of Engagement and Communications on information published by the CCG relating to Covid-19. This was followed by group members reflecting on Covid-19 clinics etc.

It was noted that the next meeting to be held in April would discuss the forthcoming Government Health & Social Care Bill White Paper.

## **5. PPG Projects:**

### **a) Cancer Awareness:**

(RM) stated that he had signed up for two workshops in March that were run by the Hampshire based group 'Communities Against Cancer' and it maybe a subject that the PPG could consider in the future to raise patient awareness locally regarding cancer.

**Action: All to note**

### **b) eConsult webinar:**

Several members reported that they had taken part in the recent webinar that had been organised to present updates to the eConsult system. Much discussion ensued with the general opinion that the system was very complex and time consuming for patients to use and (RC) stated that he felt that eConsult had had a rude awakening in that other similar products had come to the fore which offered a better service. He also stated that the Practice would never use it as the primary source for patient consultations. It was considered that the NHS App was much more useful with the many functions that it incorporated.

**Action: All to note**

## **6. Apples PPG Update:**

(BD) reported that the most recent PPG meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.February and that their PPG was working in line with the Grove PPG on the issues relating to the MIU and also the Local Plan.

The Apples PPG were still working on determining the best methods of communication with their more elderly patients who were not online.

## **7. Any Other Business:**

### **a) Long Covid Awareness/Support:**

(RM) raised the fact that there are probably patients who had contracted the Covid virus but had not been hospitalised and they could be suffering the after effects known as 'Long Covid'. It was asked if there was anything that the PPG could do to raise awareness of the services available to aid their recovery. (RC) stated that there was a service set up that was run out of Dorchester for the west of the County by a team including GP, a Respiratory Consultant, Psychologist, and Physiotherapist etc., and they had already received 160 patients in the first three weeks via GP referrals and the system was likely to be overrun.

The PPG could possibly make patients aware of what online help there is to aid their recovery as referral to the clinic is via GPs.

**Action: All to note**

### **b) Yetminster Patient Participation Group:**

(RM) stated that he had been in touch with Layla Ansar – Assistant Practice Manager at the Yetminster Health Centre to offer help in setting up a PPG as they had several patients who had shown an interest.

**Action: All to note**

### **c) NHS App:**

It was agreed to hold this item over to the next meeting due to time constraints.

**Action: All to note**

## **8. Date of next meeting:**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>.April 2021 at 5.30 pm. via Zoom video conferencing.**