

The Grove Patients Group
Sherborne
Minutes
13th.April 2022
5:30pm
(Meeting conducted via 'Zoom')

Present: Dr Rob Childs **(RC)**; Joan Cooper **(JC)** and Bruce Duncan (Chair – Apples PPG) **(BD)**. Gill Foott (Engagement and Communications Coordinator [PPGs]) **(GF)**; Alex Kimber (Managing Partner) **(AK)**; and Roger Marsh (Chair) **(RM)**;

Apologies: David Bartle **(DB)**; Chris Hardy (Chair – Yetminster PPG) **(CH)**; Lizzie Kingsbury (Social Prescriber) **(LK)**; Tony Meehan **(TM)**; Vicky Morland (Social Prescriber) **(VM)**; and Maira and Poppy (Sherborne Girls – students);

1. Previous Minutes – 2nd.March 2022.

a. Matters arising:

i Forward website review to (AK) for consideration:

(RM) stated that he had forwarded the website review to **(AK)** that had been prepared by Maira and Poppy. Where appropriate many of the proposed changes had now been included in the website. Subsequently, thanks had been sent from both the Practice and PPG to Maira and Poppy via Amanda Mackintosh. **Action: CLOSED**

ii Report on Youth Group paper:

The subject had yet to be discussed with both the Apples and Yetminster PPGs before being taken further. Note: Due to other priorities it was agreed to place this item on hold.

Action: All to note

iii July Newsletter:

(JC) had produced a further article for the next newsletter and this had been reviewed by both **(TM)** and **(RM)**. It was agreed that the article should be reviewed by Dr Rob Childs prior to publication.

Action: (RC)

It was also agreed that an article on the work of social prescribers should be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

Action: (VM) and (RM)

2. Practice Update:

General Update:

(AK) reported that patient demand was still very high and the Practice was extremely busy with staff under a lot of stress, as staff sickness was a problem. Rotas were constantly being reviewed to maximise the number of patients that could be seen.

The practice team were very pleased that two of their nursing staff are finalists in the NHS South West General Practice Nurse Awards for 2022. Danielle Moncrieff (Nurse Manager) is a finalist for the 'General Practice Nurse Leadership Award', and Lisa Considine (Senior Practice Nurse) is a finalist for the 'Above and Beyond Practice Nurse Award'.

(RM) stated that he had published the information regarding both Danielle and Lisa on various social media groups. In addition he had emailed around 300 patients with the information and had received many messages of congratulations for them both. He agreed to forward the messages of congratulations to **(AK)**.

ACTION: (RM)

Covid Update:

(RC) stated that within the Sherborne Area PCN in January a peak of Covid cases was at 167 in a 7 day period. This was followed by a reduction of case numbers. However, a further peak at 136 cases in a 7 day period was experienced on the 21st.March. He stated that cases were prevalent in care homes, with Abbey View, for example, having about half of their 40 residents suffering from the virus. Cases were now on the decrease, but the reported figures did not reflect the

actual cases as people were either not testing or reporting the fact that they were sick with the virus. It was apparent that the vaccine was preventing people from becoming seriously ill. The Sherborne Area PCN had conducted two further Covid vaccination clinics in the Digby Hall on the 31st.March and 1st.April to give a second booster to those over 75 and those who were immunosuppressed. Again our local Primary Care Network had topped the list of those across the whole of Dorset for the highest percentage take up of the booster vaccine with a figure of 68.3%.

3. Armed Forces Patient Participation:

(RM) gave an update on the last meeting of the group which was held at Manor Court, Newland and was attended by Terry Canham – Chair SSAFA in Dorset who gave a talk on his work with the organisation. The next meeting was scheduled for the 30th. April with the speaker being Andy Price – Founder & Director of The Veterans Hub Weymouth & Portland Community Interest Company.

4. Cancer Awareness/Support Group:

It was reported that the first of what was intended to be monthly meetings of the group was held at Manor Court, Newland on the 21st.March. The meetings were organised by members of Stalbridge Cancer and Recovery Support (SCARS). It was encouraging that the first meeting had been attended by several local cancer sufferers. The next meeting was scheduled for the 18th.April at the same venue.

5. Sherborne Orienteering Project:

It was reported that the scheduled meeting on the 29th.March took place where it was noted that the project was nearing its final stages. A further site meeting had taken place to determine the location of signage etc., and permission had been obtained for a course(s) map to be displayed on the external wall of Sherborne Library. The next project group meeting was scheduled for the 19th.April and it was felt that a target launch date of Friday 3rd.June as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations was still hoped to be achievable.

6. PPG Activities Since Last Meeting:

- North Dorset PPG Chairs meeting
- Macmillan Cancer Support meeting – Update on various groups across the region
- Dorset ICS – Public Engagement Group Meetings (14 March & 12 April)
- Sherborne Town Council March Meeting
- CCG Primary Care Committee Meeting
- Orienteering Group Meeting

7. Reports:

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

In his absence **(TM)** had provided the meeting with the following update on the activities of the FOYH:

- MIU reopened – albeit reduced hours – 5 days a week as from 1st April - Yeatman Hospital (Sherborne) – 9am-6pm, Monday-Thursday, 10am-4pm, Sunday
- Increased funding for new Breast Cancer Unit at Yeovil DH –
- Plus request for Breast Cancer consultant services available at the Yeatman
- Increased funding for Stewart Lodge expansion improved Mental Health facilities
- Continued support for Emotionally Connected Sherborne
- 70th Anniversary
 - a. Choral Concert at Leweston school this month
Next Month - May
 - b. Thanksgiving service at Sherborne Abbey – 3pm 14th April open to the public –
 - c. Art in the Afternoon and Car boot sale also in May
 - d. Wine tasting 17th August at Castle Gardens – information to follow
 - e. Full information available on line

b) Sherborne Town Council (STC):

(RM) stated that he had attended the March meeting of the Council and had given an update on health related matters. He also stated that he would be attending their next meeting on the 19th.April, but would be away for the Annual Parish meeting on Monday 25th.April but he had sent in a report to be presented at the meeting.

c) North Dorset PPG Chairs Meeting Update:

It was agreed to circulate the minutes of the last meeting.

ACTION (RM)

d) Health Champions:

In her absence (VM) had produced the following update report:

Karen Smith is keen to set up a Chatty Café/Talking Tables venture in Sherborne, taking place in The Pear Tree, which would be for anyone lonely and isolated who wants someone to talk to. Anyone interested in helping with this should contact Vicky Morland in the first instance.

(VM) was now working with a group of new Health Champions, who are exploring a couple of ideas to benefit the community. They are looking at a buddy/befriending service, as well as a Listening Ear for young people who just want someone to talk to. In addition, one of the new volunteers expressed an interest in taking her dog to visit elderly residents in a care home, and this is now being organised with Trinity Manor.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 27th. April when they are hoping some of the existing health champions can join them so that they can all work together.

e) CCG PPG Lead Report:

(GF) echoed the sentiments that (RC) reported on Covid case numbers, as this trend of numbers being reported against actual cases was giving a false impression as people were not either testing for or reporting the fact that they were ill with the Covid virus.

Regarding the Integrated Care Board, it was still the intention to go live on the 1st.July, but this was obviously dependant upon the parliamentary bill gaining Royal Assent.

The next Dorset PPG webinar was set for the 26th.April, the subject being how to identify and avoid cyber crime.

f) CCG Public Engagement Group (PEG):

(RM) reported that at the March meeting – ‘Dorset Integrated Care Board – Approach to Working with People and Communities’ was the topic. At the April meeting - Patricia Miller, the Integrated Care Board’s CEO (Designate) gave a talk on her reflections on the new ICS. In addition there was a presentation on the ‘Our Dorset Integrated Care System – Citizen’s Panel’.

8. PPG Projects:

a) (Core20PLUS5):

After a short discussion on the subject, it was agreed that throughout the year the PPG could work with the Practice on this subject as specific publicity projects/campaigns are produced. **ACTION: All to note**

b) PPG Recruitment:

The meeting held a lengthy discussion on this subject and it was felt that not only recruitment, but the retention of members was a problem. It was agreed that now the Yetminster Health Centre had formed a PPG, in the first place the chairs of the two PPGs from the Sherborne Area PCN should meet with Chris Hardy (Yetminster PPG Chair) to further discuss the matter. **ACTION: (RM)&(BD)**

9. Apples PPG Update:

(BD) updated the meeting on the fact that the Apples PPG had not met since late January.

More recently Dr Greg Miles had retired from the Practice after 36 years of service.

(BD) had recently read an article by a GP about the changes in general practice that had occurred over the past 30 year. He felt that it was interesting in that it triggers questions about the future of GP practices and the expectations of patients. He agreed to circulate the article. **ACTION: (BD)**

It was of concern that the existing four GPs at the Apples were having to increase their hours to cope, which was also not helped by the increase in staff sickness due to Covid. In addition the vacancy for a

Nurse Practitioner was proving extremely difficult fill as no responses had been received over an 8 to 9 month period.

It was still a concern of the PPG that there are about 1300 patients at the Apples who are digitally excluded and the way of communicating with those patients was still a problem that required solving.

10. Yetminster PPG Update:

In his absence, Chris Hardy had supplied the meeting with the following report:

“The Yetminster PPG is formally up and running, we have two committee members and two virtual members. We have had two meetings and we are very much still finding our feet. We have assisted the surgery to create a simple newsletter which will be published this week. It’s likely we will meet again later this month and then our meetings will happen every quarter.

As a PPG we want to meet the staff and try and get a better idea of how we might support the surgery. It’s very early days and we are currently too small and inexperienced to push initiatives, only time will tell how it all develops”.

11. Any Other Business:

a) Support for Ukrainian Refugees:

(RM) enquired of the Practice whether we had notice of any Ukrainian refugees coming to live in the area who would need to register as patients. (AK) stated that there had been no notice of any at present, but should the situation arise then they would be catered for in the same way as those refugees from Syria.

b) Signposting patients to the Community Pharmacists:

(RM) asked whether the PPG could help in any way to make patients aware of the work of the community pharmacist. After discussion it was felt that maybe it would help if more awareness was made of the role of social prescribers.

c) Patient Assistance with Digital Technology:

(JC) raised that fact that help was required in understanding digital technology by some of the more elderly patients. (GF) reminded the meeting of the service provided by Dorset Council with their Digital Champion project. It was agreed that this subject would be raised with our local health champions.

ACTION (RM)

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25th.May 2022 at 5.30pm.

Future Meeting Dates: Wednesday 6th.July 2022

Wednesday 17th.August 2022

Wednesday 28th.September 2022