

The Grove Patients Group
Sherborne
Minutes
2nd.March 2022
5:30pm
(Meeting conducted via 'Zoom')

Present: David Bartle **(DB)**; Dr Rob Childs **(RC)**; Gill Foott (Engagement and Communications Coordinator [PPGs] **(GF)**; Alex Kimber (Managing Partner) **(AK)**; Lizzie Kingsbury (Social Prescriber) **(LK)**; Roger Marsh (Chair) **(RM)**; Tony Meehan **(TM)**; Vicky Morland (Social Prescriber) **(VM)**; Jill Warburton (Social Prescriber) **(JW)** and Maira and Poppy (Sherborne Girls – students);

Apologies: Jane Carling **(JC1)**; Joan Cooper **(JC)** and Bruce Duncan (Chair – Apples PPG) **(BD)**.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair **(RM)** welcomed Jill Warburton to her first Grove PPG meeting, having recently taken up her role as Social Prescriber within the Sherborne Area PCN.

1. Previous Minutes – 19th.January 2022.

a. Matters arising:

i. Publish Newsletter:

(RM) reported that the Winter/Spring 2022 Grove Newsletter was published on the 23rd.February and besides being posted on social media groups and sent by email to patients, it had been added to the Practice website. **Action: CLOSED**

ii Forward website review to (AK) for consideration:

(RM) reported that the review conducted by both Maira and Poppy had been passed to **(AK)** and the recommendations were under consideration. **Action: (AK)**

iii Circulate website questionnaire:

(RM) stated that this had been circulated with the minutes of the January PPG meeting. **Action: CLOSED**

iv Report on Youth Group paper:

It was reported that **(TM)** had produced sample letters to both local school head teachers and also to both the Apples and Yetminster PPGs in order to create an awareness and to gauge support. Following discussion it was agreed to discuss the subject with both the Apples and Yetminster PPGs before taking the subject further. **Action: (RM)**

2. Practice Update:

General Update:

(AK) reported that patient demand was still high and the Practice was settling down as Covid subsides. No new staff had joined the Practice since the last meeting.

Protocols and policies were under review with Patient Services helping the GPs by making sure their signposting and care navigation protocols are working. In addition the administration team are checking that their procedures are working correctly.

Covid Update:

(RC) stated that Covid was not yet over although case numbers were decreasing. Across Dorset the rate was 331/100,000 patients which was the average for the UK. He predicted that cases would continue around that level for the foreseeable future and the pandemic would become endemic. Sherborne was still experiencing around 39 to 40 cases per week and it was predicted that cases would remain at that level for the next couple of months.

There still remained a large number of patients in hospital awaiting discharge due to the fact that there was a lack of either carers or care packages.

Regarding Covid vaccinations, the Primary Care Network had identified around 30 vulnerable 5 to 11 year old patients, but the uptake had been low with only around 10 coming forward. The remaining 5 to 11 year old patients were being catered for by the general vaccination clinics. It was noted that the Government had published in the media that people of 75 years and older would be eligible to receive a fourth vaccination, but to date no information had been sent to GPs. It was felt that these patients would be offered the booster vaccination after a period of 6 months from their previous vaccination. The PCN were looking at vaccinating around 3,500 patients during April.

(RC) felt that the vaccination programme would continue for at least the next 5 years with either one or two vaccinations per year.

A problem could arise where retired medical staff who obtained temporary registration as vaccinators may lose their registration due to time lapse between vaccination periods. This would have a major effect on any future vaccination programme.

Integrated Care System (ICS):

(RC) expressed concern whereby all the existing NHS Dorset CCG Directors and Senior Staff were not moving on to the new ICS organisation. This would have a detrimental effect through the loss of corporate knowledge and put the ICS at risk by being heavy with secondary care and local authority representation.

It was noted that in the Purbeck area the local authority was already collaborating with secondary care to provide services which will cut out some services currently provided by primary care.

GP Contracts:

As part of a new contract the Government were requiring primary care to provide a 9 to 5 service on Saturdays with no additional finance or staff. There was concern on the effectiveness of this requirement in that primary care will need the support of blood tests and x-ray facilities etc.

3. Armed Forces Patient Participation:

(VM) gave an update regarding the meeting of the support group that had recently been held in the restaurant of the Half Moon Hotel on the 26th. February with about 30 military veterans attending. It was encouraging that several new members attended. Participants were given an update by Nicky Murdoch MBE on issues under review by the Armed Forces Public Patient Voice Group.

Consideration had been given to hold meetings in other local venues with a view to giving attendees the opportunity to interact with one another. This had resulted in the next meeting being held on the 26th. March in the community room of the Manor Court housing complex.

4. Cancer Awareness/Support Group:

(VM) reported that she had recently met with members of Stalbridge Cancer and Recovery Support (SCARS) with a view to setting up a regular meeting of their group in Sherborne. Subsequently it had been agreed to hold monthly meetings of the group in the community room at Manor Court starting on the 21st. March. Details had been advertised on social media.

5. Sherborne Orienteering Project:

(DB) gave an update on the progress being made with the project. He stated that a further meeting had been held recently and the courses around Sherborne were now being finalised. A further meeting of the project group was planned for the 29th. March when final details would be agreed such that the project could proceed to the production of maps and signage etc. It was felt that a target launch date would be Friday 3rd. June as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

6. PPG Activities Since Last Meeting:

- Attendance at Health Champions meeting
- Reported on health matters to Sherborne Town Council February meeting
- Attended Military Veterans Support Group February meeting

- Attended FOYH Executive Committee Meeting
- Attended the Apples PPG meeting
- Dorset PPG – Integrated Care System – webinar
- Our Dorset – Public Engagement Group meeting
- Building Health Partnerships across health, care, voluntary and community sector organisations - webinar

7. Reports:

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

(TM) gave an update on the most recent activities of the FOYH.

At its most recent meeting Fiona Hartley was elected as the new Chairperson of the FOYH to take over from David Hayes in September.

An outline of forthcoming events:

- Communifit 10K and 5K runs – 13th.March
- Car Boot Sale – 1st.May
- 70th.Anniversary Thanksgiving Service involving the local schools and members of the public – Sherborne Abbey 14th.May
- Awards to FOYH supporters 14th.May
- Art Exhibition – Date and venue TBD

The committee were looking to recruit new trustees.

Funds being provided in support of the new mental health facility at the Yeatman Hospital.

The FOYH are attempting to obtain an update on the re-opening of the Minor Injuries Unit.

It was noted that the Chief Executive of Dorset HealthCare Foundation Trust was leaving to take up a new post.

b) Newsletter Group Meeting:

After discussion it was agreed that the next Grove Newsletter should be produced around the July timeframe.

Action: (JC) (RM) (TM)

c) Sherborne Town Council (STC):

(RM) stated that he had attended the February meeting of Sherborne Town Council and reported on the activities of both the Grove and Apples Medical Centres.

d) North Dorset PPG Chairs Meeting Update:

Next meeting scheduled for 9th.March 2022.

e) Health Champions:

(VM) gave an update on the activities relating to the Health Champions. At present she was working on the Collaborative Practice 'Altogether Better' programme and a request has been sent out to patients across the PCN for new volunteers to revitalise the Health Champions. As a result there will be a welcome workshop for about 20 new health champions to be held during early March. It was noted that about 50% of those who have volunteered came from the surrounding villages to Sherborne.

f) CCG PPG Lead Report:

(GF) provided the meeting with an update from across Dorset. She stated that although the Government had removed Covid restrictions people were still being encouraged to isolate if they contracted the virus and also to wear masks especially in closed areas etc.

The recently held PPG webinar on the Integrated Care System attracted some 60 participants from various health related groups. Many questions were posed which will be answered on the Dorset PPG website and in addition a recording of the webinar was also available on the website.

There was an ongoing public survey relating to Dorset Pharmacy service which closes on the 18th.March.

Dorset County Hospital had been awarded £77.3M which is earmarked for the following development;

- New emergency department
- Critical Care Unit
- Staff accommodation
- Integrate Care Hub

The plans can be viewed online and are open for comments until the 11th.March.

g) CCG Public Engagement Group (PEG):

(RM) reported that the group was now meeting monthly and that the last meeting was held on the 14th.February with the following subjects being reviewed:

- Our Dorset – Integrated Care System
- Working with communities, how services should be delivered and how services are planned.
- Reviewed the first draft proposal on working with people to reduce health inequalities.
- Discussion on the Citizens Panel that is currently being co-designed by ICS partners and will be used to seek views together, avoid duplication and reach out to areas of inequality and those furthest from health and care.

8. PPG Projects:

Grove Medical Centre – website redesign:

Following the list of questions regarding the use of the Practice website (circulated with the minutes of the January Grove PPG meeting), it was proposed that (RM) should meet with (AK) to discuss the subject. It was recognised that this was not of high priority and would be discussed at some future date.

Action: (RM/AK)

9. Apples PPG Update:

In the absence of (BD), (RM) gave an update on the Apples PPG meeting that was held on the 27th.January 2022.

The PPG explored ways that they could help the Practice:

- Reminding patients that all medication queries do not need to be dealt with by GPs
- Ways in which patients can be notified of blood test results
- Asking patients to submit average of blood pressure results
- Publicising the role of social prescribers

Dr Miles retiring on the 8th.April 2022.

Advertising for a Prescribing Nurse Practitioner

PPG investigating how to reach more patients with communications

10. Any Other Business:

a) Missed Appointments:

Most recently the Practice had supplied data on missed appointments for November and December 2021 along with January 2022. The data showed that on average 125 nursing staff appointments per month were missed by patients not attending.

It was agreed that the PPG would occasionally put out a note to patients on the subject asking them to cancel their appointments if they could not attend.

Action: All to note.

a) Yetminster Health Centre - PPG:

(RM) reported that the Yetminster Health Centre had now formed a Patient Participation Group and had held their first meeting with the Practice. They were now attempting to recruit further members and had a second meeting scheduled for the 23rd.March.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th.April 2022at 5.30pm.

Future Meeting Dates: Wednesday 25th.May 2022

Wednesday 6th.July 2022

Wednesday 17th.August 2022

Wednesday 28th.September 2022