

The Grove Patient Participation Group
Sherborne
Minutes
22nd. July 2024
6:00pm

Present: David Bartle (Vice Chair) (**DB**); Jenny Davis (**JD**); Gill Foott (Engagement and Communications Coordinator [PPGs]) (**GF**); Carol Foster (**CF**); Sarah Garside (**SG**); Karen Gough (**KG**); Alex Kimber (Managing Partner) (**AK**); Dr Ruth Lawes (**RL**); Roger Marsh (Chair) (**RM**); Tony Meehan (**TM**); and Lorraine Wallington (**LW**).

1. Introductions:

The Chair (**RM**) welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Dr. Ruth Lawes.

2. Apologies: Maria Heard; Vicky Morland (Social Prescriber) (VM); and AJ and Amanda (Sherborne Girls – students).

3. Practice Update:

a) Managing Partner's Report

(**AK**) told the meeting that Rita Sibson (Practice Nurse) would be retiring at the end of October. More recently, Rita had been caring for both COPD and Diabetes patients.

Staff sickness had been a recurring problem with admin and patient services team members suffering from the Covid virus.

GP Registrar Dr Felix Asaju was leaving the Practice on the 23 July after six months to move on to another Practice to continue his training. (**AK**) remarked that he was a good GP and he had been an asset to the Practice. Others echoed this sentiment around the table. Shortly a new GP would be joining the Practice in order to continue his training and Dr Barnes will supervise him.

Dr Wood had expressed his thanks to all those patients who volunteered to be interviewed recently by the medical students as part of their training. It was noted that a further four medical students would be joining the Practice in September.

(**AK**) gave the meeting an update on the British Medical Association's position regarding the ongoing situation of the GP contract. She stated that a webinar with the BMA was due to take place and this it would be determined what, if any, action would be taken by clinical staff members, which would probably involve working to contract. It was noted that the new Health Secretary was more interested than the previous incumbent was in reaching a settlement.

It was noted that in addition to both the Flu and Covid vaccination programme this autumn that an additional vaccine for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) would be available to those patients over 70 years of age. The patients to be offered this vaccine would be those identified by the Practice.

b) Practice Research

Dr Ruth Lawes attended the meeting to give a talk on the medical research conducted by the Practice. She stated that the research involved inviting patients to take part in particular studies. At present, the Practice is taking part in a Reload Study that involved monitoring patients who have developed a cough throughout an illness on a regular basis to determine whether their cough is likely to recover quickly or not. This is carried out by monitoring their voice with a special app to determine change etc.

Previously a number of patients had taken part in an immune defence study, which involved looking at respiratory illness. This looked at various aspects such as exercise activity or saline nasal or gel-based nasal sprays offered improvement and reduced the number of patients suffering with respiratory illness. The result of the trial found that the use of nasal sprays reduced the number of patients affected and reduced the recovery time of those patients who were affected. In addition, it was found that those patients who were active helped quicken recovery.

4. NHS Dorset - Engagement & Communications (PPGs)

(GF) gave the meeting an update on various ongoing subjects including a joint survey by both BCP and Dorset Councils to capture the experience of male carers.

Healthwatch Dorset had recently issued their annual report (see:

<https://healthwatchdorset.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/HWDorset-Annual-Report-2023-24-finalr.pdf>

(GF) also updated the meeting on the Men's Health Fair held at Blandford at which nearly 600 people attended. Over 80 cholesterol and 200 blood sugar checks and an even higher number of blood pressure checks.

5. Health Champions: No Report

6. Military Veterans Support Group:

(RM) stated that the Military Veteran's Support Group did not hold a meeting in June, but the recently held July meeting was very well attended with some people attending for the first time. The members were given a very informative talk by Liz Rose chair of the trustees of Countrymen UK.

(RM) also stated that Lizzie Kingsbury's – (Military Veteran's Social Prescriber) contract with Help and Care was coming to an end in September and it was important that her function within the group should continue. It was agreed that further discussion should take place regarding the future of the function performed by her.

Action: (RM)

7. Plans for future Health Talks:

(RM) reported that due to the non-availability of Active Dorset the intended talk on hypertension had been postponed to a future date.

(TM) suggested that the role of Dads and Male Carers could be the subject of a future talk.

8. PPG Newsletter:

It was reported that the Grove Summer Newsletter was published on the 2nd. July. Work was already ongoing with articles for the autumn edition.

Action: All to note

9. Actions from 3rd. June 2024 Meeting

i) PPG Newsletter:

Request for volunteers for help to take over writing the regular 'A View from the Waiting Room' article. (Discussed under agenda item 11 iii)

ii) 'Virtual' PPG Members Survey on Accurx Triage System:

(RM) reported that he had used MS Forms to conduct a second survey of patients on the use of the Accurx triage system. The results of the survey had been circulated to PPG members prior to the meeting. It was noticeable from the survey that the use of the NHS app appeared to be low. More recently, the results of the national GP's Survey had been published and a similar result was noticed in the results for the Grove Medical Centre.

Another point noticed from the local survey was the increase in face-to-face appointments for patients.

Overall, both surveys showed good overall results for the Practice.

iii) PPG Engagement with Young People

The action to use the information produced by the students to form the basis for some suitable information to be included on the Practice website had now been completed, but it was still required to be reviewed.

Action: (AK) and (RM).

iv) Wessex Local Medical Council notice to patients:

The previous meetings actions had been covered by the inclusion of an article prepared by Dr Lawes that was published in the summer edition of The Grove Newsletter on the subject.

Action: Closed.

v) Befriending deaf patients:

It was noted that attempts had been made by both (TM) and (VM) to contact Annabelle Crabb to further discuss this subject, but to date there had been no response.

It was agreed that **(DB)** would attempt to determine through personal contact with Annabel Crabb if a problem existed.

Action: (DB)

vi) Health Walks Accessibility:

In the absence of (VM) it was unclear whether contact had been made with Geoff Cook at the Gryphon School regarding students helping with this project as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Action: (VM)

10. PPG Chairs Activities:

(RM) gave the meeting a report on his activities since the last PPG meeting;

- Attended meeting at Dorset County Hospital on Hyper-Acute Stroke Service.
- Gave health report to June and July meetings of Sherborne Town Council
- Took part in Our Dorset – Public Engagement Group meeting
- Attended Military Veterans Support Group July meeting
- North Dorset PPG Chairs meeting attended by (DB)

11. Any Other Business:

i) Future Talk on Collaborative Working:

(DB) stated that he received an offer from Ian Bartle (Primary School – Head) to give a talk on his work across various local groups/organisations. It was agreed that Ian should be invited to talk at the September PPG meeting. (DB) also suggested and agreed that an invitation could be made for the Mayor to attend a future PPG meeting.

Action: (DB)

ii) NHS Somerset – Hyper-Acute Stroke Service Update:

As previously mentioned (RM) reported that in June he had, along with two PPG Chairs from Yeovil, attended a meeting at Dorset County Hospital (DCH) to obtain information and discuss progress on the development of a Hyper-Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) at the hospital. This was particularly important to our patients as should the proposed changes by NHS Somerset go ahead to centre their HASU on Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton and close the existing facility at Yeovil District Hospital, then patients from our area would be treated at DCH.

iii) 'A View from the Waiting Room' – Future articles:

Following discussion on a replacement writer on the subject for future newsletters it was agreed that (TM) would write a suitable request that could be emailed to 'virtual' PPG members.

Action: (TM) and (RM)

iv) Planned reduction in the local Fire & Rescue Service:

(RM) reported that he had just received an email from Steve Shield (Sherborne Town Clerk) stating that work was ongoing by the Fire & Rescue Authority to re-evaluate local services. It was feared that the Sherborne Station might lose one of its two appliances. Following discussion, it was agreed that the PPG should have an input into the letter being submitted to the Authority by the Town Council on the subject.

Action: (RM)

11) Date of next meetings:

MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2024 ~ 6.00 pm at the Grove Medical Centre