

**Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of the Patient Participation Group for the Tean
and Blythe Bridge Surgeries held at Blythe Bridge Primary Care Centre at Noon
on Thursday 14th May 2015**

Present:- Frank Hopley (Chair), Jane Bentley (Practice Manager), Lisa Burrows (N.S.C.A.), Peter Jones, Brian Moran and Derek Sederman.

1. Apologies.

Carole Hughes, Hazel Walker.

2. Minutes of the meeting on February 26th 2015.

These were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3. Matter arising.

There were no matters arising though there were still queries regarding the signage outside the Blythe Bridge Surgery. Brian Moran also raised the issue of the National Patient Participation Week starting on June 1st. There was not a lot of information available on it but Brian said he would look at the possible design of a poster advertising it.

4. The North Staffordshire Carers Association.

The main part of the meeting was designed for an address about the above organization from one of their members, Lisa Burrows, a Primary Care Link Co-ordinator with the Association. She said that there are an estimated 60,000 voluntary carers in North Staffordshire and the job of the Association, a Charity, was to help, back up and advise the carers and in many cases those being cared for. To start with she took us through some of the activities which the Association was involved with each month. She said that the North Staffs Carers Association is there to help and benefit in formal, unpaid carers in the North Staffs area. The youngest carer needing help was aged 5 and the oldest, 91. Some of the activities were based on hobbies such as photography or singing, a Film Club or Computer Use; others dealt with specific physical and mental ailments such as Dementia, Cancer and Brain Tumours. There were, arranged, special Carer Awareness days, Legal Advice Groups, talks on the aid given by Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) and the help available from Douglas MacMillan Homes (DMH). They ran Tea Dances and special sessions for the cared as well as the carers. There was support for former carers who felt 'lost' and needed to readjust. The organization was founded 27 years ago and consists of a professional staff of over 30 based in Hanley. After assessing needs the Association would welcome those in need to its Headquarters for help and in some cases appoint one of its professional staff to visit. The "befriending" staff were CRB checked but also trained to deal with everyday problems as well as emergencies or crises faced by the voluntary carer.

Mr Frank Hopley asked whether the Association would be able to fund any activities arranged through the local surgeries. Lisa Burrows thought this unlikely but would make enquiries.

She suggested that our two Practices might benefit by taking part in an educational presentation which would involve the staff in a session lasting about an hour. Jane Bentley said she would look into this. It was pointed out that all the work of the NSCA was done through Charitable donations and local Council funding etc. Lisa

Burrows handed around an excellent folder about the work of the NSCA and showed that much more was available on their website www.carersfirst.com including details of how to donate to their charitable work.

Frank Hopley thanked Lisa Burrows for giving such an insightful talk about the work of her Association.

5. The Survey

There was little time to talk about this topic so it was decided to make it the main item on the agenda for the next meeting. Jane Bentley asked for ideas regarding the National Patients Participation week in June details of which are available at:- www.napp.org.uk/Patient%20Participation%20Awareness%20Pack%202015.pdf and the meeting closed at 1.40 pm.

6. Date of next Meeting.

Thursday August 20th at Blythe Bridge Primary Care Centre at Noon.

Signed.....



Date.....

18/9/2015