

Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the Patient Participation Group for the Tean and Blythe Bridge Surgeries held at Blythe Bridge Primary Care Centre at 12.15pm on Thursday August 15th 2013.

Present:- Frank Hopley (Chair), Dr Vamsi Tiguti, Jane Welch (Practice Manager), Carol Hughes, Peter Jones, Brian Moran, Shirley Rawlings and Derek Sederman.

1. **Apologies**

Dr James Pilpel, Helen Garner, Kenneth and Doreen Ball, Philip Howell, Karen Morris, Carol Smith, Usha Tiguti and Joy Whaley.

2. **Organisation of the Partnership**

Dr Tiguti led by saying that there would be a change in the doctors working at the Practices. Dr Usha Tiguti was leaving to take up an appointment at Waterhouses. The Practice had advertised for a new doctor and there had been a good response. The advertisement stated that the right person could be offered a Partnership in due course. Dr Tiguti and Jane Welch also emphasised that in response to patient needs the number of consultations available weekly to see doctors in the Practice had been quite considerably increased. This had, in fact, brought about a situation where there were times when no-one was seeing a doctor even though they were in their rooms. Even taking into account the number of appointments missed for various reasons, it was still the case that there were "free spaces" during surgery opening hours.

NB. At this point Dr Tiguti had to leave to attend his afternoon work at the Haywood Hospital.

3. **Matters arising from Committee Meeting on March 21st 2013**

Brian Moran said, referring to Item 6, that more people were needed to develop the constitution which he regarded as poor at the moment. Peter Jones advocated having more young people. Brian Moran suggested they should be targeted individually. Jane Welch agreed that notification could go out with other letters though Brian Moran felt that funds ought to be/were available for mail-outs. Derek Sederman had studied the DNA notices and felt that they gave the basic information correctly but that they could be kept as a running total month by month. It was felt that the Minutes of PPG meetings could be put on the Practice website.

4. **Tackling Dementia**

Before he left the meeting Dr Tiguti had highlighted the need to look at areas where help and understanding of Dementia could be addressed. This was taken up by Frank Hopley who said he was trying to obtain some funding for a "Dementia Club". He envisaged this running at a local facility such as the Toy Library in Forsbrook. He intimated that if a start could be made then more money might be forthcoming. The problems of staffing such an exercise were raised by Carol Hughes and Shirley Rawlings while Brian Moran cautioned on the grounds of adequate insurance. Peter Jones felt that this might be an area where Tesco would feel happy to be involved at a local level. It was thought that there must be groups throughout the country who had faced the difficulties mentioned and that they could be contacted to see what answers to our queries were available. Frank Hopley said he would continue with his

investigations and proposals at present as the problems created within a community by dementia were very considerable. Derek Sederman suggested that members visit:- http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/news_article.php?newsID=1746 to learn more about the national efforts to combat the condition.

5. **The Website**

Brian Moran was very concerned about the website and people's understanding of it. Jane Welch suggested that before the next committee meeting all members should make a point of looking at the Practise website so that they were able to discuss the various items which might need adjusting.

6. **A Virtual PPG**

An item left over from the last meeting was a discussion about the need for a *Virtual PPG*. This would, of course, enable those who could not make the meetings which were held during normal work time, to have an input. Jane Welch said that this could be advanced with the help of the local press, with posters. A "*Let's have your views on-line*" campaign. Frank Hopley said he would follow up press contacts and Peter Jones would also help to follow the matter through.

7. **Constitution**

The Constitution will be reviewed soon.

8. **Any Other Business**

Two points were brought up by Peter Jones. The first was to enquire whether the Blythe Bridge Primary Care centre's defibrillator could be sited on an outside wall of the surgery so that it was available to emergency crews just as the others in Blythe Bridge. Jane Welch she would look into the issue. The second point had two items. The first was as to whether Nurse appointments could be booked on-line. Jane Welch said it was not possible, giving good reasons. Further it appeared that a patient could only have one booking at any given time but this meant that if someone had a booking to see a Nurse then the on-line system would not allow a booking to see a doctor. Jane Welch said she would look in to this anomaly.

No date was fixed for the next meeting and the meeting closed at 1.39 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....