

# Patient Participation Group

## Notes from the Meeting Held 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Present: IJ, DH, MB

Dr Anne Chalmers, Mr Simon Guy (Business Manager)

Apologies: NP, PE, DH2, SG , MI

1. The notes from the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Matters arising:

Flu vaccination rates for the over 65s were in excess of 80% for the first time. We had very high uptake in the 2 and 3 year olds and overall the Practice did really well. We bought in additional Health Care Assistant hours and ran a Saturday clinic as well as extended hours clinics. The challenge for the coming flu season will be the introduction of a new type of vaccine for patients aged 65+

Mental Health booklets have been purchased with funds from book sales as agreed at the last meeting. These will form the centrepiece of a forthcoming health promotion display in the waiting room.

3. Dr Powell Retiring

After 25 years at the Practice Dr Powell will be retiring in early April. We have appointed Dr David Jones as a new Partner and he starts on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. He will be working initially 3 days per week rising to 4 days after a few months. Arrangements for Dr Powell's retirement were discussed including advertising.

4. Away Day

As discussed previously the Away Day will be on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May at Hexham Abbey. PE, NP and IJ have kindly agreed to attend on behalf of the PPG. The afternoon will focus on population health.

5. Age-related macular degeneration

IJ is a member of the local ARMD group which will have a "stall" in the waiting room on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

6. Diabetes Prevention Programme

We have been selected as a trailblazer site for the national diabetes prevention programme. This is aimed at patients who are at high risk of

developing diabetes. They must have a recent raised HbA1c blood test (this is a measure of blood sugar levels over a period of time). The programme takes place away from the Practice in group sessions over a period of 9 months. The focus is on diet, exercise and sharing ideas, concerns etc in a supportive environment in order to effect long term lifestyle changes that are intended to reduce HbA1c levels and therefore reduce the likelihood of developing type 2 diabetes. The Practice will invite groups of patients to take part in the programme to “pump prime” the new local resource prior to all local Practice being invited to refer eligible patients.

7. Waiting room chairs

Some of the vinyl chairs and all of the two-seater tub chairs are looking less than perfect. At first glance they appear soiled but it's discolouration of the vinyl that isn't improved with any of the cleaning products we've tried. Simon will be obtaining quotes for recovering or replacing.

8. Hadrian Primary Care Alliance Hub

The hub has now been open for a few months and its going well. Patients that attend have provided good feedback, though for many of our patients Corbridge is too far to travel. The hub is currently open 6:30pm-8pm Mon-Fri and Saturday. There is often appointment availability on a Saturday so it's not being overused at present. Whether our own funding will continue for our Mon-Wed 6:30pm-8pm appointments is uncertain at this point but it seems likely that at some point the funding will cease.

9. Newsletter

Ideas for the next newsletter were discussed including hay fever and cyberbullying.

10. Any other business

The font size used on the Appointments Online system was observed to be on the small side. Simon to ask the developers if anything can be done about it.

The idea of a Facebook page for announcements was raised. Eg for when flu vaccines arrive or during inclement weather.

Next meeting June 2018