

Patient Participation Group (PPG) - Minutes 7th December 2023

Present: Jill Clarkson, Pam Robinson, Jill Farmer, Deidre Conn, Monica Stanway-Williams, Iris Marr.

Practice representatives: Melanie Lodge, Katie Byford.

Apologies: Dr. McMahon.

Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Matters arising : none

Reports: none

News from the practice:

We are joined with Colte and there will be Prostate Cancer checks and attempts to increase patient awareness of Prostate Cancer.

There will be decorating of the practice waiting room.

There will also be extended access to The Hub Manningtree for 6 weeks.

Saturday there will be Colte Clinical Staff. This will be booked externally. Patients will have to phone the receptionist to book in. The G.P. will be telephone only and there will be 2 slots for Riverside from next weekend.

There will soon be a Clinical Systems Change, to 'System One', because the I.T. is not working as it should. The training will start on 26th February 2024.

The Practice has enough funding to employ a locum for 6 months and Dr. Mary Kamanda is coming back on a part-time basis. A Clinical Pharmacist (Joe Davies) will be available to the Practice on Fridays.

Outsourcing to Imperium for **Medication Reviews**, their staff will rely on a list of questions but they will suggest blood tests etc. Patients need an Annual Review. The alternative is to allow a Pharmacist to go through the list of medications to do a 'Structured Medication Review' BUT they will have no access to clinical records, (Boots the Chemist get paid £20 for this).

PPG Suggestion/solutions box:

There were no objections to this suggestion for a box that would be intended for patients. A voice for patients to go only to PPG, not the Practice. We will have to ensure no prescriptions are posted. There will be no Practice box.

box **ACTION - IRIS to do a poster to accompany the box.**

Future Events

A social Prescriber Meeting?

Mel suggested a public/patient meeting and this was greeted with enthusiasm. The Social Prescriber is Sophie Repman of the Community Voluntary Services, Tendring. There is Signposting to indicate needs e.g. money problems may mean no money for food so people can be directed towards Food Bank Vouchers. There is also 'seated yoga' for those who need exercise but have mobility issues. Also connecting to community referrals for those who need weight management but can't afford to pay.

This would initially have to be Friday Afternoons. Sophie will be invited to attend our next meeting (7th March 2024).

It was hoped that there would be Practice funding for the Social Funding Meeting.

ACTION - MEL to ask if there could be Practice Funding for tea & coffee & biscuits.

ACTION - DEIDRE to enquire at the library if they can offer a free space for the Social Prescribing Meeting.

ACTION - JILL H. ditto 'The Hub'.

AOB

The stigma attached to Mental Health is Nationwide, what could we do about this? Perhaps this needs to be on a future agenda.

Some leaflets from the Ovarian Cancer charity Ovacome were handed to the Practice.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2024 (apologies from Deidre).