

DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE - PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 1.00 pm via Zoom

Present: Marion Higgins (Chair), Geoff Hill (Secretary), Sheila Frith (Notetaker), Amrit Mistry (Treasurer), Julie Pregnall (Practice Director), Shama Saleem, Brian Malpas, Joan Mycroft, Keith Haresceugh, Dawn Alston, Chris Eckersall, Joyce Jones, Ann Wright, Roger Acheson, Judith & Colin Hearnshaw, Chris Chesham.

Apologies for absence: Ben Wragge, Bhikhubhai Mistry, Elizabeth Hesketh, Gillian Eckersall, Joan Drummond, Kathleen Morris, Kathryn Ratcliffe, Ted Davenport

Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted as correct but with the addition of Jennifer Bates in attendance. Marion expressed her gratitude to Gemma Jackson for her input to the last meeting and acknowledged that her enthusiasm and ideas had given us all food for thought.

Updates from the Practice - Julie Pregnall

New Building

Little to add to what was reported at the last meeting. The outcome of the appeal that was submitted relating to the height of the extension will be known by 17/12/2020.

Triage System

Julie reported that data would be collected until the end of the year so she would not be in a position to fully report until the new year. This will offer more meaningful results. However, feedback continues to be positive.

Roll out of Covid-19 vaccine

Despite still awaiting approval of all current vaccines, planning the rollout has clearly progressed at a pace. Although official guidance remains “fluid”, the implementation plan appears to be moving forward. GPs will administer a large proportion of vaccine to patients, starting in age bands over 50 and those under 50 with underlying conditions. As yet, information regarding those aged under 50 is unknown. It is expected that the first patients to receive will be those in care homes and 80+. Training in administering and drawing up the vaccine is required for those staff who will be involved in the process. The initial allocation of the vaccine will be 975 doses.

It had been hoped to begin the operation on or around 1st December but that seems unlikely as of today. The initial supplies would appear to be the Pfizer product. There are complications around its storage and administration which will create some difficulty. However, these are known and workarounds are being considered. For instance, the vaccine has to be deep-frozen to -70 degrees Celsius until use and has a short shelf life of 5 days thereafter. It cannot be tipped, doesn't “travel”, and isn't supplied in single doses, but in 5-dose vials.

There are obvious problems to be overcome for those patients in care homes or who are housebound. However, it is anticipated that many people will receive the vaccine at the Hyde Leisure Centre facility. This proved to be a highly successful operation and has featured in both local and national news reports as a model of good practice. A suitable freezer has already been installed within the facility ready to use. It was described as a “drive-thru” but patients will also be able to “walk-thru”. Julie mentioned several other sites across Tameside which will be used for the same purpose and it may be, in order to expedite the fastest take-up, that people may be re-directed to a site closer to their home. Besides NHS staff, local authority officers will also be deployed as

they also have a responsibility within the process, achieving - hopefully - a joined-up, speedy and efficient outcome. Volunteers will once again be required and Julie asked those able to give their time should notify her by email, or alternatively notify the PPG at dukppg@gmail.com.

Eligible patients will be notified via text, email, telephone etc. and the booking system will be similar to that used for the flu jab clinic. There is a 3 weeks gap between the two doses, which will be from the same supply.

From January 2021, the Astra-Zeneca product is likely to be used, subject to approval. It is hoped that most of the patient population will have received the vaccination, where it is appropriate, by the end of March 2021. Extended clinic times are planned and staff identified to be released from other duties so that Practices continue to offer as normal a service as possible.

A brief discussion followed which highlighted the fact that drivers who are immunised will be unable to drive away immediately but will be monitored for approx 15 minutes.

It was acknowledged that this was a uniquely challenging situation. Inevitably we will learn as we progress.

Newsletter

Geoff presented a draft that had been worked on for an 8-page, A5-sized booklet. This would be available to most patients electronically but a paper version would be necessary for a small proportion. With the addition of a brief reference to the Covid-19 vaccine, everyone agreed on content etc. Three of the 4 local chemists had agreed to distribute it with prescriptions to DMP patients. Other distribution methods were considered. Only 1000 copies will be printed.

New Members

For the next meeting, Marion asked everyone to consider what it was that made them join the PPG. These experiences and responses could help us to attract new members and find ways of engaging with patients. The issue of evening meetings was raised and this will be considered again for future meetings, although it was noted that even at the evening meetings that were held, the participants largely matched the same demographics. It was agreed that people could be texted to see if there was a preference for evenings, although some current members expressed their unavailability at such times. Prior to the initial lockdown, we had proposed rotating evening/daytime meetings.

Logo

Some of the more creative members of the PPG had been reflecting on designs for a suitable logo for the Practice/PPG. A brief discussion about how this might reach a wider audience, "prize" etc took place and will be re-visited at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 19th January 2021 at 1.00 via Zoom. The AGM is scheduled for January and will therefore take place prior to this meeting. Anyone wishing to attend the AGM who is not a member of the PPG should contact Geoff in advance at dukppg@gmail.com