

Dukinfield Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th June 2021 at 7.00 pm via Zoom

Present: Marion Higgins (Chair), Geoff Hill (Secretary), Sheila Frith (Note Taker), Amrit Mistry (Treasurer), Julie Pregnall (Practice Director), Dawn Alston, Brian Malpas, Gillian Eckersall, Keith Haresceugh, Roger Acheson, Joyce Jones, Judy Hearnshaw, Bhikhu Mistry, Chris Chesham, Ann Wright, Shama Saleem, Hilary Dewhurst, Pat Bradshaw.

Apologies for absence: Jacqueline Parry, Joan Drummond, Kath Ratcliffe, Cath Clayton, Joan Mycroft.

Minutes of the last Meeting:

Approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

On-line systems: Geoff reported that the user guides he'd done on these will be reviewed by Leigh during this week.

Messages: The issue had been fed back.

Newsletter: Item is on the agenda for further discussion.

Patient Access/Repeat Prescriptions: Geoff had reported that if a prescription is written by a doctor during a consultation the online system is not automatically updated and can be seen, according to the record, as not being issued. The Practice has reported this to Patient Access as it lies within their area of responsibility.

Updates from Julie Pregnall:

New building: Progress being made now. All the pre-conditions required by Planning have been met. No concerns were raised. Funding is agreed. There will be a patient consultation exercise regarding the closure of the Birch Lane site in due course.

It was confirmed that both sites will remain operational throughout the building work.

Covid vaccination: 18+ now being invited for vaccination. Pop-up clinics in various parts of Tameside are being set up. From 5th July the Walker Lane site in Hyde (Hyde Leisure) will no longer be available as a vaccine site as it is planned to reopen the building for public use. Plans are being made to relocate to a site in Hattersley.

Chris Chesham wanted it recording that the services operating from Hyde have been excellent and run in a very professional manner and that she would like that to be passed to those involved.

Everyone wholeheartedly agreed.

Staff Changes: Dr Lim has joined the practice for 18 months. Dr Hsu will be returning soon and will be with us for a further year. A receptionist apprentice has been appointed for 13 months.

Medical Records Opt out: Julie had earlier circulated links to sites offering information/background etc. on this issue. It explained how the information will be used and how to opt out if that's what one chooses. She said that this was entirely an individual's choice but urged everyone who has concerns to investigate them via reliable information sources such as NHS Choices. She pointed out that the Practice has a responsibility to make everyone aware of any issue regarding personal data. There are two levels of opt out; an individual can agree to one or both. One's decision is not binding for life and can be changed in the future. The first level of opt out is that information held with GPs can be shared by NHS Digital, but it cannot be shared beyond them.

The second is preventing GP held data from leaving the Practice at all. While many of us may have anxieties about sharing information with anyone, it is worth noting that the gathered information will provide evidence for specific services and highlight need for clinical services in individual areas etc. into the future. Geoff said that he had very recently received further information which he would circulate with the minutes. The date for opt out has been changed to 1st September but it was pointed out that this wasn't a cut-off date. Decisions taken now can be changed in future. It was asked if DMP gained any financial reward for this and it was confirmed that they don't.

Style of Text Messages:

Concern had been expressed about the style used in the message to convey information on the medical records collection opt out. This issue has been raised previously in other contexts. Julie explained that on this occasion, the wording was the same as that used by most GPs in the area, and had been compiled and distributed in a standard format. She will feed the comments back but acknowledged that any form of written message is difficult to "balance" to ensure that no offence is taken. It's rarely achieved when such a wide distribution is necessary. Those who raised the issue were satisfied with the response. **Action: Julie**

Newsletter:

Geoff said that he wanted to get started with a summer edition quite quickly. He will contact those who volunteered to help directly. Small groups can use the meeting room at Concord Way by arrangement. Julie confirmed that one of the nurses will be submitting a piece to be included in this next issue. Different ways of the Practice and the PPG engaging have been a subject of discussion for some time. A suggestion had been that a PPG member could attend a specific slot, say monthly, at an appropriate DMP meeting. Similarly, there was a suggestion that instead of a piece written by the admin team, a PPG member could spend some time with them and offer their observations as an item for the newsletter. The ideas were well received and volunteers requested to contact Geoff.

Action: Geoff/others

Logo:

Geoff expressed various concerns about adopting any one of the previously identified logos, especially regarding copyright. He offered to discuss it with a graphic artist friend and look into options for producing something unique. This was agreed. **Action: Geoff**

Future Activities:

Marion asked for ideas/suggestions for future PPG events. The following were made:

- Health Event
- Informal get together - "Bring a friend"
- PPG recruitment - a "table or stand" at a community event
- Christmas activity
- Flu clinics - a PPG presence
- Use of facilities at Dukinfield Park for a "summer event"

Marion offered help of PPG to assist with practical tasks where possible, especially during the build period.

Once Covid restrictions are lifted, or changed, the group can take some of these ideas forward. In the meantime, keep thinking! **Action: All**

Timing and frequency of meetings:

Geoff reported that the vicar at St John's, Tim Hayes, had confirmed that the meeting room can be used in future, though not at the moment. There will be no charge for daytime meetings. If we aim to keep alternate day/evening meetings it was suggested that we continue to use Zoom for evening meetings. However, it was widely acknowledged that it will be good to get back to face to face meetings. The following were agreed:

- Zoom to be used for evening meetings
- Six weekly intervals, alternating day and evening. This schedule can be altered to deal with major holiday periods.
- 90 minute duration, with the first 30 minutes being without DMP representative attendance.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday, 20th July 2021 at 2.00 via Zoom.

Appendix:

Further information from the NAPP about patient data is available [here](#).

The NAPP is the National Association of Patient Participation.