

Dukinfield Medical Practice Patient Group
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th September 2021
at St John's Conference Centre at 1:30pm

Present: Marion Higgins (Chairperson), Geoff Hill (Secretary), Sheila Frith (Notetaker), Joan Drummond, Diane O'Brien, Roger Acheson, Kath Ratcliffe, Keith Haresceugh, Ann Wright, Bhikhu Mistry, Joyce Jones, Brian Malpas, Chris Chesham, Chris Eckersall.

Apologies: Judy Hearnshaw, Gillian Eckersall, Beryl Broadbent, Dawn Alston, Jennifer Bates, Joan Mycroft, Sue Hough, Patricia Bradshaw.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The last meeting had been beset with technical problems and was not minuted. The minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2021 were approved. The matters arising from those minutes were included in today's agenda.

Marion welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting of the PPG since March 2020.

2. Updates from the Practice:

2.1 Building:

Julie confirmed that scheduled building work will commence on 1st November 2021. It is anticipated that they will take approximately 6-9 months to complete, though it is acknowledged that current national shortages of some materials could adversely affect the schedule. The plan is to complete the extension first so as to be able to move staff into that area whilst remaining work is carried out. There are contingencies should things not go according to plan to maintain continuity of services. The changes to the building should have a very positive impact on service delivery in terms of managing resources and additional clinical spaces. This offers scope to extend the range of services offered from within the practice. For instance, external agencies such as Be Well and others would be able to run regular sessions on site. Planning for the future could include higher- level treatments such as minor surgery but it is stressed that this is something for the future and would involve specialist training etc. The new build will take up all the remaining vacant external space. There will be a new entrance and the existing entrance will become an emergency exit.

2.2 Patients are going to benefit in a number of ways from the increased services, but it is also important to acknowledge that as part of the PCN, services can be commissioned across the group and "shared out" between the participating Practices.

2.3 Covid-19 and flu vaccinations

Julie explained that there is a small group of immuno-suppressed patients who need a third dose of vaccine and that these are currently under way. These should not be confused with booster shots that all of us will receive in due course. Invitations for boosters are being issued. There has to be a 26 weeks gap between the second dose and the booster. The main

vaccine hub for DMP is the former British Gas site in Hattersley. It is advisable to avoid using the M67 route as there is often heavy congestion. The site can be reached via Gee Cross or Godley. Julie said that there has been a heavy investment in the facility.

Flu vaccines will be offered very soon. However, if patients are currently booking covid boosters they will not be offered a flu vaccine simultaneously. It will mean a second appointment. Julie said that to the best of her knowledge the flu vaccine this year is the same as that offered last year. She has to order sufficient quantities for all eligible patients several months in advance. She urged PPG members to remind friends and family of this. When people visit either a pharmacy or other site, it means that the dose that has been bought in by the Practice on their behalf potentially goes to waste.

2.4 New staff and updates

Julie gave details of the new trainees who have recently joined the team. They are mostly ST3s who are doctors in their third and final year of GP training. Their images are available in the autumn newsletter. We are very fortunate to have six trainees. The Practice has welcomed two new receptionists, Jill and Sally. They both have GP experience.

Diane asked for the record to show her regard for the help and support that receptionists have demonstrated over the last 18 months.

Dr Dowling is recovering from his surgery and is planning a phased return to work. The PPG send him their very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

2.5 Julie announced that she is now a non-clinical Partner of DMP. She also confirmed that it had been agreed that a member of the PPG should attend a monthly Quality Improvement meeting. These meetings are currently suspended until the demands and constraints that have been introduced into General Practice for the duration of the pandemic are eased. It is deemed that as much time as possible be given over to clinical demands.

3. Keith reported on what he felt was a series of errors resulting in very poor communication. The discussion resulted in other, similar situations being raised. Julie said she remembered Keith's issue and would look into what happened.

Action: Julie

4. Newsletter

Geoff briefed the Group on the autumn newsletter. He has developed a schedule to cover the 4 annual issues with deadlines for submissions and delivery etc. He felt it was vital that each issue contained a piece from a member of the clinical team. It was widely acknowledged that this autumn issue was colourful, attractive and informative.

However, Geoff said that he felt frustrated that the newsletter wasn't making the impact that we'd hoped for. He reported that there had been only 22 views from the website during August and September and that copies left in pharmacies etc., are often not handed out as promised. He said that when he has put copies into people's hands, they are very well received. This was a wide-ranging discussion with various suggestions put forward and considered. At the moment, copies to those patients 85+ are hand-delivered. It was agreed

that this could continue dependant on sufficient help, but in addition, volunteers are asked to deliver to any patient who lives within their immediate locale regardless of age. Julie will make the data available.

There is just one small item to be completed for the current newsletter which will be done today.

5. Christmas Activity

For the benefit of newer members, Julie outlined previous events that the PPG/DMP have embarked upon. It was acknowledged that places like the Grafton Centre have been implementing a programme of joint activities with their members. However, Julie acknowledged that her current workload prevents her from being involved in arranging another afternoon tea or similar event. It was generally agreed that, for this year, hampers would again be the best option. There were several offers of help. Marion, Geoff, Kath, Joan and Anne offered to be part of the sub group. Brian and Roger would organise transport again. Roger needed a Santa suit! Others offered contributions of various sorts (Diane and Sheila). This has been a really rewarding activity previously and was very warmly received. Recipients will be identified by the Practice.

6. PPG Activities for the coming year

Marion referred to this briefly. Unfortunately, time was running out and it was agreed that this very important item should be deferred to the next meeting.

7. Logo

This will also be deferred to the next meeting, but it was felt it would be a good idea to launch a new logo with the opening of the new building.

8. Future meetings

It was agreed that meetings up until the end of 2021 should be held on Tuesday afternoons at 6 weekly intervals. This makes the date of the next meeting 9 November 2021.

Hot Press: We are awaiting confirmation from St John's that the room will be available to us at that time.