

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE  
PRACTICE PATIENT GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022  
AT DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE, CONCORD WAY AT 1.30 PM**

**Present:** Marion Higgins (Chairperson), Geoff Hill (Secretary),  
Sheila Frith (Asst Secretary) Julie Pregnall (Practice Director) Joyce Jones,  
Ann Wright, Dawn Alston, Brian Malpas, Amanda Unsworth.

**Apologies for Absence:** Roger Acheson, Susan Hopkins, Patricia Bradshaw, Amrit Mistry,  
Kath Ratcliffe, Judy Hearnshaw, Joan Drummond, Jane Foster

### **1. Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters Arising**

Minutes were approved as a correct record.

Most matters arising were on the agenda. However, the following updates were noted:

- A) Alvanley Clinic: Unfortunately, the planned visit had been postponed as our contact will not be available for several weeks.
- B) Fund raising: Geoff confirmed that he had registered the Group with Action Together. Funding up to £1,000 is available for suitable projects that benefit the community.
- C) As Joan was unable to attend today's meeting, her commitment to send Sheila information for the next newsletter is carried forward to the next meeting.

### **2. Christmas Hampers**

Geoff updated the group on progress to date in gaining commitments from local supermarkets to donate goods towards the hampers. He noted that his usual contact at Asda has left, but that the new person has said she hopes to support us and has given Geoff some useful information about Asda's other funding routes. Although the fund is exhausted for the current year, it's one to be investigated for next year. It was agreed that Geoff would make a sign for the waiting room asking for donations for the hampers. A storage area has been identified for donations etc. The Group was asked to check for "spare" Christmas crackers and serviettes if they have any.

Action: Geoff, All

### **3. Christmas Party**

Planning is going well. Dawn outlined progress to date. Funding of £150 had been secured. Receipts are essential for all expenditure as it is the sum of those that will be refunded. Payment has to be via the PPG account. It is still hoped that Dukinfield Cricket Club will be the venue. Julie pointed out that people can be nominated to attend the party/receive a hamper by PPG and others. The main criterion is social isolation.

### **4. Health Champions Update**

Dawn gave an update on the success of the walking group. Attendance averages at about 12 per week. It is hoped to start a craft group soon. The pre-covid one had been particularly successful and Julie felt that there was still interest from previous participants. The discussion included possible venues that can provide permanent storage, funding options, the range of crafts to be offered etc. Enthusiasm for the project is clear, but it remains a work in progress.

Geoff reminded everyone that there is a Health Champions page on the website which can be updated to reflect current activity.

## **5. Health Event Feedback**

It was acknowledged that the event had been successful. Feedback from the exhibitors was all positive and most would like to be invited to any future events. Julie asked that the record reflect thanks to the organisers, everyone who took part and offered help on the day, the hosts (St John's), and also to the exhibitors, some of whom were volunteers, for giving up their precious weekend time. Some acknowledged that it had been a productive networking exercise; becoming aware of services in Tameside that they were not previously aware of. The nurses from the Practice had worked tirelessly to ensure everyone who wanted a mini health check got one.

It was felt that there would be events in the future and that we've learned a lot from the experience.

Sheila pointed out that younger people and families were definitely in the minority of attendees. It was acknowledged that we need to do something different to target these groups. Julie said that in the past asthma "parties" have been carried out in schools working with teaching staff and relevant children. Again, this was a casualty of covid. The discussion considered the different options of reaching out to parents, including working in partnership with schools and relevant organisations bringing information on issues such as mental health, asthma and others to families at events such as parent evenings and similar gatherings. Everyone was asked to give the matter some consideration as we go forward.

## **6. Gardening**

Brian updated the meeting on the work he'd done in the Practice "garden". He had planted over 400 spring bulbs and some winter bedding. It was suggested that a photo could be included in the upcoming winter newsletter followed by a further photo next spring when the bulbs will be in flower. There is a small patch of grass outside the front of the Practice which is something of a trip hazard. The Council has given the Practice permission to put a planter there. It was recognised that materials could be expensive; that it needs to be high enough not to be a trip hazard and not require too much maintenance. Brian was asked to price up materials for the different options that were put forward.

A discussion also revolved around acquiring an allotment that could be used as a facility for a DMP gardening group. The PCN that we are part of does have a community allotment in Hattersley but it was felt something a little closer to home would be more suitable. It was thought funding could be available from the various sources that have been previously identified. This should be discussed at future meetings.

Action: Geoff (Agenda)/Brian

## **7. Patient Survey**

Marion outlined the background and changes to the patient survey form. Patients will now have an option to identify themselves so that what might be simple solutions can be put forward to resolve perceived problems.

The NHS National Survey was discussed. Julie had been able to identify some factors, i.e. the sample, the age range etc. The questions used in the survey were generic and it had been carried out a time when covid restrictions were still impacting service delivery. The sample had been very

small, only 80 patients, with an age range of 45-75. However, it was felt that some of the questions could be adapted to use in the Practice's own survey giving us the opportunity to ask the question and why a patient had opted for their answer.

This issue is very important and discussions will continue at future meetings.

Action: Geoff (Agenda)

## **8. Evening and Weekend appointments**

Julie outlined the arrangements for these appointments available outside core hours. There will be a mix of appointments available from clinical staff, including phlebotomy, GP appointments, etc. The two sites identified are The Brooke Surgery and Thornley Medical Centre, both in Hyde. It was stressed it was not a walk-in service and appointments still have to be booked at DMP. It's noted that each participating surgery in the PCN has a number of ring-fenced appointments so no one Practice can take more than their allotted share. The scheme is still in its early stages, though some clinicians have already been recruited.

## **9. Banking**

Geoff explained that it had become necessary to have another signatory available for the bank account and that Dawn had agreed to be it. He has also applied for a cash card.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

15th November at 1.30 at the Practice meeting room.