

DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE
PATIENT NETWORK GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd May 2023
AT DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE, CONCORD WAY AT 1.00 PM

PRESENT: Marion Higgins (Chairperson), Geoff Hill (Secretary), Julie Pregnall (Practice Director), Amrit Mistry (Treasurer), Joyce Jones (Minute Taker), Ann Wright, Bhikhu Mistry, Dr Vernon Marshall-Coulaudon, Dawn Alston, Kath Ratcliffe, Chris Eckersall, Brian Malpas.

Guests: JoJo McColl and Graham Thomas.

APOLOGIES: Sheila Frith (Assistant Secretary), Susan Hopkins.

Introductions were made to welcome Brian's guests from the allotment project.

Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters Arising.

The minutes were approved as a correct record with the exception of a member's name needing amending.

There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

1. Update on the allotment

JoJo spoke at length on the work they do as part of the Leap Charity, the transformation of the Dukinfield allotment and the support given to vulnerable groups and families at the Bloom Street, Hyde, allotment. Lottery funding had been secured for the Dukinfield allotment and a lot of hard work clearing weeds, etc., has been done to make it fully accessible to everyone. A lot of seating has been put in place and a shed is in the process of being erected. Pictures were shown of the many raised beds, areas and paths. It is envisaged that many groups could utilise the allotment and workshops could be held to include: School visits, dementia support, carers, children, tots to pre-school, cancer groups, bereavement groups, well-being, mental health, mums and babies (perhaps incorporating buggy walk group, etc).

They are open-minded about what groups could come going. There could even be a Twilight group. Cooking stew or soup on site could be done with a small charge for those who can afford it. Some groups may be charged because they want it to be a legacy project and do not want funds run out. Graham, Tameside Census 2021 Engagement Manager, is involved with Community Champions and is open to ideas.

He mentioned suicide, mental health, and domestic abuse including how it affects children, Daisy Chain course and MIND for men. He also wants to have a women's empowering support group. Our group can help advertise and market all this to patients. He is also involved in a Grounds Maintenance service where they take on vulnerable people which helps build self-esteem etc. They are to email Geoff with opening times when we can access the allotment.

They are open to link in with other agencies.

Julie asked what sort of numbers could be accommodated for workshops and they said about a dozen but say thirty for volunteers' day. An Open Day for all say from 10 am to 2 pm is proposed. They are fully insured. It was suggested that as there is nothing in Dukinfield for dementia patients members of the PNG could walk them over to the allotment.

The gates have always to be locked for security and insurance purposes, so it was suggested a key be kept at the surgery.

A PNG visit is to be arranged to go to the allotment.

JoJo and Graham left the meeting.

2. The planned new survey

The planned new survey form was discussed, and Geoff will make minor updates to it. Marion explained that the survey is aimed at finding out the ease or difficulty patients have at making appointments and to gather information from them whilst they are waiting. Patients tend to want to leave quite quickly after having their appointment so it is sometimes difficult to get them to do the survey then. The CQC do look at certain areas and for the "Friends and Family" test certain questions have to be asked and submitted annually. It is proposed to target different sections every couple of months. Vernon thought it was a good quick and easy survey.

3. PNG Focal point

The installation of a notice board on the wall by Brian and possible shelving were discussed. Brian had some concerns as to siting of the board and electric wires in the wall but Julie assured him that it was OK at the planned site. Marion suggested a poster with emoji faces on to highlight the PNG. Shelving is not possible but window recesses can be used and possibly perspex leaflet holders. Julie said Health and safety risks have to be considered but that countertops could be used as our focal points. A Notice Board meeting could be held with those involved.

4. Knitting/Crochet Group

The new group needs a name and the members were invited to think of one and put it on the WhatsApp group so one could be chosen. The aim is to knit baby things for the Practice's new babies but this could extend to scarves and things for the Christmas hampers. A venue needs to be decided with Sheila's conservatory being offered but Julie said this is not an option as it is not insured and she suggested the library which can be accessed even when closed. Monday morning was suggested and further issues need to be discussed at a pre-group meeting with those interested. Marion and Sheila have plenty of yarn and were thinking of made bundles for babies 0-6 months

and perhaps putting an invitation in the bundle to the buggy walk mums. All patients could be asked to contribute and knit/crochet something if they wished to. The Group could work from home and meet say every other week.

5. Quality Improvement Meeting

Dr Rebecca Najem did a presentation on chronic pain and her leadership project on chronic pain and the use of opioid medication is now on the website. Leaflets covering this were handed out. Julie said opioid medication reduction is an NHS initiative; looking at Co-codamol level to morphine level, reviewing meds of high dosage patients with a view to reducing, not starting patients on, Co-codamol reducing etc. Clinical evidence shows that opioid use for the management of chronic pain is ineffective and has the potential to be harmful. There are other methods and techniques

that can be used to manage pain. Obviously, patients are going to be supported and it could be a gradual process to reduce the use. The risk of taking opioids outweighs the pain.

Joy did a presentation on cancer referrals.

Julie said that QI was originally funded by the NHS but now is funded for just 2 hours by the Practice.

Vernon queried hospital blood tests and practice blood tests sometimes being duplicated but Julie stated this has to be the case.

Vernon also asked who had similar QI projects and Julie said each practice has to have two.

6. Health Event

Julie said she would not be available on Saturdays.

Geoff said he would not be available from 15th September for one week.

A working group would be got together in the meantime with Ann, Kath, Dawn and Joyce showing interest. When we have a confirmed date, Marion will put the details on our WhatsApp group.

An ambulance attending was discussed and Marion will do her best to get one there this time.

7. Activity Funding

Julie is ready to submit applications; Action together (Johnathan King), for walking groups, gardening, knitting etc.

Amrit as treasurer wanted to be more involved and Julie said he could do applications if he wished and was happy to hand it over to him. They are to discuss this after the meeting. Fundraising for the Health Day is needed for both venue, refreshments and admin costs.

8. Ongoing Website updates

Geoff showed the group the recent updates to the DMP website on the projector screen.

Julie referred to the two five-minute videos on the Opioid webpage regarding pain.

There is a lot of information on the website but this is only a starting point with more to come for the support of both patients and doctors.

Vernon said as a Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust member himself how could new members be encouraged to get involved. This could be an agenda item next time.

Date of the next Meeting: Tuesday, 13th June 2023
1pm Concord Way site.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm

With thanks to Joyce for stepping in to do these minutes.