
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MINUTES

Thursday, 23 January 2020 - 6.30PM

Attendees:

Alison Flannery – PM Wellfield Health Centre

Jane Gaunt – PM Castleton Health Centre

Graeme Hill, Social Link Prescribing Worker

Wellfield patients x 14

Castleton patients x 7

Kingsway patient x 1

Kirkholt patient x 1

Alison Flannery introduced everyone and thanked everyone for attending the third Canalside Network Patient group.

For the benefit of first time attendees, Alison explained that the Primary Care Networks are a group of practices who work collaboratively to improve services and deliver some new services. The group has been established to canvas opinion from patients about the work of the Network. The Network is still in its first 6 months after being formed.

Alison Flannery then went on to say that the patient group agenda needs to be led by patients and that a Chairman and Vice Chairman need to be appointed. There was a show of hands and interest expressed. A Chairman and Vice Chairman were appointed.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the meetings will be held quarterly and that the posts within the group should change every 12 months. E-mail addresses for communication with the Chairman and Vice Chairman will be circulated.

Alison Flannery explained that the Primary Care Network (PCN) has a Board Meeting on a monthly basis. Dr Schofield has created a newsletter for all network member practices and staff outlining what has been going on within the network. This month this includes a Clinical Pharmacist who will be joining us shortly and the appointment of Graeme Hill, Social Link Prescribing Worker (in attendance tonight). A copy of the newsletter was circulated for information.

Graeme Hill explained that there are six Social Link Prescribing Workers who have been appointment across the borough. He explained that the aim of the role was to release GP time and will be in place for five years. Graeme is the Canalside Social Link Prescribing Worker which means his time is spread between all practices within this network. He went on to explain his role is non-medical. Graeme can spend up to an hour with a patient and following on from this appointment he would refer into or signpost to the relevant services within the area to help the patient. Referrals to Graeme could typically be for social isolation, homelessness or difficulties access work. Patients currently have to be referred to Graeme by a GP but in time Receptionists and other services will also be able to refer in.

The question of waiting times to see Graeme was raised – and currently there is no waiting time.

Other exciting news within the network is the opening of the new practice at Kirkholt which is due to open May 2020.

There was a discussion regarding the provision of extended hours. The current contractual requirement is for practices to open 8am – 6.30pm Monday to Friday plus some 'Extended Hours' outside of these times. The network Board are currently discussing how best to deliver Extended Hours across the Network and there was a general discussion about the various options around dates/times. Some comments were made that the early morning appointments were liked and that the current extended hour's service takes account of shift patterns. It was agreed to share details of the current practice arrangements for Extended Hours.

A meeting between all Practice Managers, the Chairman and Vice Chairman has been arranged to discuss the administration of future meetings.

**The next meeting of the Canalside Patient Group will take place:
Thursday 30th April at 6:30pm
Castleton Health Centre, OL11 3HY**