

**STONY MEDICAL CENTRE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

Minutes of PPG meeting held on 30th January 2017 at 10.00am

Present: Judith Williams (Practice Manager), Gillian Thompson, Joan Crossan, Margaret Ladd, Crad Allerton (Chair), AT, Phillipa Prescott, Sylvia Waddington, Ron Powell.

Apologies:. Pat Thurling, Angela Aaronson, Sue Graham.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2016 were discussed, and it was agreed to incorporate most of Alexia Stenning's amendments and to publish them on the Medical Centre website.

Matters arising - There were no matters arising other than the above discussion

Patient Congress - Notes of the last meeting had been circulated to members of the PPG. Congress has asked members and PPG members to share information about practices and procedures in their own GP practices that work well as well as those that could be done better. Congress has now decided to concentrate on helping to improve individual GP practices.

It has also been agreed to invite speakers regularly so that members are up to date with what is going on in the local CCG and also nationally. JW suggested Pauline Philip, who is the Chief Executive of the Luton and Dunstable University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Lead for the BLMK Sustainability and Transformation Plan as a speaker.

JW also suggested that it would be interesting to have the views of congress about a possible merger of GP Support Services and Roundabout to bid for money for more GP access.

Discussion ensued about GP access at Stony Stratford around the average waiting time to see a patient's registered doctor for a routine appointment- 4 weeks - as opposed to the same or next day for an urgent appointment. Some health issues, although not urgent, may need to be seen sometime between the two by, for example, a doctor who may not be the registered doctor.

An interesting item before congress at the last meeting stated that 25% of cancer diagnoses are made in A & E. Clearly this is a late diagnosis and we are told that early diagnoses usually result in better outcomes. JW stressed that Stony Medical Centre spend on Pathology is high as many preliminary tests are initiated by the practice usually resulting in early diagnosis.

Online Services – public WiFi is now available in the building.

The Practice is waiting the Redhouse Medical Centre handbook showing how to use the SystemOnline to order repeat prescriptions, book appointments etc.

Procedures of Low Clinical Value - The CCG has a limited budget as well as increasing demand for the services that it provides. It also has a statutory duty to live within its allocated resources.

To this end the following changes are proposed:

a) Restrictions to supply of some medications e.g. gluten free foods, over the counter medicines, travel vaccines, vitamins, Viagra, Liothyronine.

- b) Limiting access to some procedures where evidence of effectiveness is weak or where alternatives are appropriate.
- c) Changes to thresholds for accessing some services e.g. podiatry, hearing services
- d) Working to ensure that people can get home from hospital with the right support and limiting the number of community beds.

It was noted that as some procedures become more difficult to access on the NHS guidance may be needed on how to source such procedures privately where patients are willing to pay.

There is an 8 week formal consultation to take place from 1st February to 29th March and the consultation findings with recommendations are to go to the CCG Board in April.

Any Other Business

NHS Health Checks - for men and women qualifying are still being carried out by the practice for patients who do not have pre-existing conditions & who fit within the specified age ranges.

Flu Vaccination appointments - It was noted that different questions were being asked of different patients at these appointments. This may be because the patient notes come up on the computer screen and different questions may be appropriate

Meeting closed at 12.00

Meetings in 2017 will be:

March 13th

May 8th

June 19th

August 1st (Tuesday)

September 11th

October 24th (Tuesday)

December 4th