Abbey Patient Participation Group

Minutes of meeting held on May 4 2016 at 6.30pm

**Present:** Dr Nick Browne, Joy Stevenson, Jean Yarnell, Chris Barnatt, Richard Hepple, Gerry Coppel, Thelma Hembury, Christine Tyldesley and Sue McNab

**Apologies for absence:** Debs Smith and Irene Goode

In line with the sharing of the chairmanship agreed at the annual meeting, Richard Hepple was in the chair.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Jean had wrongly been listed as absent but the minutes were otherwise agreed. (Apologies from minute-taker Sue)

**Golden Years:** The third event in the series of four was during Easter week and Gerry thought this was why it had not been so well attended as previous ones. It was still successful, however, and the people there enjoyed Beeston Ukulele Group. Debs said the next one was on May 19 and Dr Browne said Dr Gordon, who deals with dementia patients at the Stapleford Health Centre, said she had heard from patients about our endeavours and was impressed.

**Children’s Corner:** Jean Yarnell, Sue McNab and Joy Stevenson are to liaise about the purchase of books, furniture etc from the funds raised by the patients. One of our patients, who does not wish to be named, has presented the surgery with a beautifully framed piece of needlework depicting a scene from Winnie the Pooh. The PPG members were all impressed and we will be putting up the work in the refurbished children’s corner.

**Patient Survey Results:** These are to be discussed at the next practice meeting before being presented to the patient participation group.

**PRG report:** Richard Hepple reported that some smaller pharmacies are feeling under threat from Department of Health cuts and a petition is being collected in Beeston. The worry is that more people will seek GP appointments if they cannot get advice from nearby pharmacies.

On the subject of prescriptions, Dr Browne said costs at Abbey Medical Centre for prescriptions had risen by 13% with the introduction of electronic prescriptions and a recent drugs audit to find out what was happening had not revealed an answer. He said the surgery will be leafletting patients too remind them to check which drugs they need and not just to blanket order everything.

Chris Barnatt felt electronic prescribing had pushed the responsibility from patients themselves to the pharmacists. Joy said as a result of recent changes, a lot of gluten-free products are being taken off prescription.

Richard said the Patient Reference Group has published a jargon-busting list of acronyms but unfortunately it runs to 26 pages. He will try to edit it and supply the PPG with a shorter version.

He said that Vicky Bailey has been appointed as joint chief executive of Rushcliffe CCG, where she was originally, and Nottingham West CCG. Despite Richard’s scepticism, Dr Browne said a separate Nottingham West chief executive post had twice been advertised but applicants of the right calibre could not been found.

Richard mentioned MCPs, multi-speciality community providers, which will be one body to provide all CCG needs. In Rushcliffe there is a body called Principia. In Nottingham West the contract is shared by PICS, (Primary Integrated Community Services), Notts Healthcare Community Foundation Trust and NEMS (out of hours doctors) and EMAS (ambulance services).

A new major area in health is Transformation and Sustainability, which is currently being looked at. QMC funding is being decreased by £19m annually because of services that have gone out into the community.

As a result of public outcry, Broxtowe Borough Council is shelving the idea of closing public loos and paying local offices, such as solicitors, pubs etc to let the public use their loos. However, the loo at Beeston bus station is still closed and the only public toilet now available at the council offices in Foster Avenue is the disabled loo.

**Any other business:** Jean Yarnell is still keen to see if we as a patient group can do something to help families and young mums, pointing out that the foundation of good health is laid down in childhood. Joy said there does seem to be quite a bit going on in the community for children but agreed to liaise with our health visitors to see if there are any gaps we might help to fill.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday, July 14, at 1pm.