

NHS Mid and South Essex Sustainability and Transformation

Partnership (STP) *continued...*

There is a **public engagement** process underway now on all of the proposals - called "discussion events", some of these are detailed below:

Basildon and Brentwood

- ⇒ 6.30pm - 8.30pm on Wednesday 21 February 2018 at Brentwood Community Hospital, Crescent Drive, Brentwood, CM158DR
- ⇒ 1.30pm - 3.30pm on Tuesday 27 February 2018 at the Towngate Theatre, Gielgud Room, St Martins Square, Basildon SS141DL

To attend you have to book a place by visiting online to:

<http://bit.ly/2AGdnpr> or contact the Consultation Team, Mid and South Essex STP tel. 01245 398118, email: meccg.stpconsultation@nhs.net

The deadline for submitting your feedback on this consultation is **Friday 9 March 2018**.

The Patient Participation Group Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM is on Tuesday March 6th 7pm at the Practice. Please do come along, but ensure you book your place, telephone 01277 626321. There will be a report on our activities during the past year, and a committee to elect. There are always opportunities for patients at Billericay Medical Practice to put themselves forward to take on roles and/or join our group organising and promoting patient health involvement and talks. We also expect there to be an informative talk at this meeting. Look out for posters and flyers in the Practice Waiting Room.



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Billericay Medical Practice

Patient Participation Group Newsletter

Edition 28 February 2018



Patient Participation Group (PPG) Update

Our **Christmas meeting** on 13 December 2017 proved to be an informal meeting with several non-committee members present. Mince pies were in abundance and the annual Christmas cake consumed. An interesting discussion on whether we should use social media to publicise what we do proved inconclusive (most present were "non-adopters" of online Social Networks). It would be interesting to gather patient views on this subject.

In November we had helped to promote the NHS "**Self-Care**" campaign. This was, and is, a very important focus on individual patients doing their very best to become aware of how to live a healthy life, and prevent and/or respond to illness and health conditions in the most effective and informed way they can. The PPG table in the Practice waiting room (pictured right) continues to display many useful healthcare information leaflets and hand-outs.



Practice Report for the Patient Participation Group, January 2018 - Report from Peter Tyrrell (Practice Manager)

GP and Surgery Updates

Dr. Sofoluwe and Dr. Buhari from our GP Practice were recently awarded fellowships to the Royal College of General Practitioners. This is a significant honour for them in recognition of their specialist work in the medical fields of Occupational Health and Skincare .

Ear Syringing is not part of the core contract of GP Surgeries. As very many appointments are taken up by this, our Practice is considering stopping the service. The matter has been raised by local GPs with our Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) recently and possible outcomes could be referring patients to a community ear syringing service, or commissioning this as an extra service by GPs.

Flu Season Up to January this year the practice has vaccinated 2,147 patients. This is 173 less than by this point last year. The number of flu vaccines administered by local chemists has dramatically increased. Last year the chemists flu vaccinated 250 of our patients, so far this year the number has been 492. An implication of this is that GP practices in the locality are finding their flu vaccinations figures have dropped, and they will be reducing the number of flu vaccines they purchase next year.

DMARDS

DMARDS are anti –Rheumatic drugs. Our practice, like others, is requiring safer pathways to protect Doctors when they prescribe DMARDS. We are proposing to give our NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) a month (from mid January) to come up with a safer DMARDS prescribing pathway before reaching any decisions on how we should continue with prescribing these drugs.

Dr Abbott will be taking Maternity leave from the beginning of April 2018 and the practice is seeking to recruit a locum GP to cover her two days a week. We wish her well.

NHS Mid and South Essex Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)

Mid and South Essex NHS are carrying out a public consultation on health and social care called “**Your Care in the best place**”. This is mainly looking at Southend, Broomfield (Chelmsford), and Basildon Hospitals working together but with each one having specialist treatment centres. One of the aims is to cut down on the number of people attending A and E and also reducing the length of patient stay in hospitals. It is proposed that **Basildon** Hospital will keep its Cardio thoracic centre but also be responsible for complex, lung, heart and vascular problems. **Broomfield** will deal with burns and plastic surgery, ENT and facial surgery and complex abdominal and gastroenterology conditions requiring a hospital stay. **Southend** will be the radiotherapy and cancer centre. All of these three hospitals will retain a full A and E department. It is likely you would be taken to your nearest hospital for urgent treatment if required for example strokes or heart attacks - but may then be transferred to the specialist hospital if needed.

Orsett Hospital will be closed as it will too costly to bring up to date and its services be transferred locally within Thurrock, and elsewhere, some to St Andrews in Billericay. In the consultation there is a lot of emphasis on patients remaining in their own homes wherever possible and on the concept of Self-Care. A knock on effect for GP services is likely to be a wider range of health and care services to be provided there. “Care Navigation” is also a new county wide, mainly by telephone, advice service for patients where they are linked to appropriate services and opportunities to help them with self-care. It is also proposed that GP reception staff could be trained to give this “care navigation” advice. It is worth reading/looking at the **full consultation document** - you can locate this online at: www.nhsmidandsouthessex.co.uk

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