

Albrighton Patients' Group

Minutes of the Meeting held 25th March 2014 at 6.30pm

1. Present: - Valerie Eastup; Sylvia Pledger; Mary Hancox; Gill Sower; Richard Shaw; Keith Woodhead; Dr. M Bird; Ann Burgess
Apologies: - David Beechey; Christine Hassall; Beryl Shelton
2. The Notes of the meeting held 21st January 2014 were accepted as a true record.
3. Matters Arising
 - 3.1 Compassionate Communities (CoCo). 6 volunteers had now been trained with 5 having completed the necessary police checks (DBS)
Gill Sower and Derek Whittaker attended a seminar at Seven Hospice on 26th March. Dr. Perry has identified 4 patients who would benefit from CoCo's services, 2 of whom had agreed to receive visitors.
 - 3.2 Telford Call to Action. The Chairman reported that the Group had received £200 from CtoA which we can spend as we wish.
The FutureFit program has developed from this. One outcome is the proposal to build an Emergency A and E Training unit between Telford and Shrewsbury. Workshops are arranged to cover a variety of aspects. All members are recommended to participate in these workshops details of which will be emailed as they become available.
 - 3.3. Dosset Boxes. These prepared boxes providing a clear and understandable routine for the taking of prescribed medication are available from our local chemist. They do, however, require the prior approval of the relevant GP in every case.
 - 3.4 Paper Bag Advertising. Dr Bird's enquiries had found that it would not be possible for the surgery dispensary to include pre-printed information on the medication bags. All examples seen had carried retail advertising and did not need to carry the identifying information required from the dispensing source.
 - 3.5 Meals on Wheels. No progress had been made on this proposal.
4. GP Survey. Valerie Eastup, Practice Manager, reported that the Survey had been successfully completed with over 300 returns. Analysis had been undertaken and a report and action Plan had been circulated to members. The report, analysis and action plan are available on the practice web site.
The action plan was discussed at length and with some minor adjustments and the addition of an action calling on the Patients' Group to increase the degree of awareness of its existence and activities, approved by the meeting.

Further comments which may call for action were:-

Telephone access to the practice. The Chairman reported several complaints where the telephone appeared to be continuously engaged.

Contraception advice should not only be directed at the younger age groups.

5. External Meeting Reports

5.1 Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group Board Meeting. A report of the latest SCCG meeting had been circulated. The secretary agreed to attend the Public meetings whenever possible.

The public meeting schedule is 14th May, 9th July, 19th September and 12th December. Any members who wish to accompany him should get in touch.

5.2 Shropshire Patients' Group. These meetings are Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and are well advertised on the SPG web site and circulated e-mails. Gill Sower has agreed to represent the group and is attached to the Community Hospital Working Group. Two members from each group are welcome at each meeting.

SPG is holding a Networking Event at Shrewsbury Football Club on 15th April at 16.45. Places are limited but anyone wishing to attend should contact the Chairman as soon as possible.

6. Newsletter Items. (For May Issue)

6.1 Practice Manager will supply a report on the Survey and resulting Action Plan.

6.2 A note about the next meeting in 20th May which will be our AGM and an open invitation to all patients to attend.

6.3 Note concerning the proposed Awareness Days 2nd to 7th June

7. Treasurers Report.

The Chairman commented that although our current finances are healthy, it may be necessary for us to consider ways of raising money in the future.

8. Any Other Business.

8.1 The installation of a television screen in the waiting room is to be considered. The screen would carry information and advice on medical matters.

8.2 The annual National Association of Patient Participation Groups (NAPP) is holding its conference in Leeds on 7th June 2014. Gill Sower and the Chairman will attend.

8.3 The next meeting 20th May will be the AGM for the Group.

Group Officers will need to be elected for a further 12 months

The Officers are: - Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

In light of her long service and increasing commitments the Chairman has indicated that she wishes to stand down at this meeting.

Members willing to fill this position are asked to contact the Secretary prior to the meeting.

Members wishing to put themselves forward for the positions should also contact the Secretary.

8.4 Mental Health and Learning Disability Services. Gill Sower presented an article from the SPG web site concerning Annual Health Checks for people with Learning Disabilities. It would seem there are 1400 such people in Shropshire. At least 800 have never had an Annual Health Check. All patients in this category are entitled to an annual check and as men die on average 13 years sooner than

average and women die 20 years sooner on average, it is essential that these health checks are carried out.

All patients in this category registered with Albrighton Medical Practice have had their annual Health Check.

The document can be accessed in full on the SPG website, or the author, Rob Gough, can be reached at rob@gough.entadsl.com

8.5 Medicine Management Group. Jenny Thomas introduced a report from the Steering Group Meeting held on 28th February. It contains comments on the use of Homeopathic and Herbal remedies and the danger of inter reaction with prescribed medicines. It also comments on the use of Statins

8.6 Keith Woodhead mentioned a new support service in Shropshire which provides support to patients who have just been diagnosed with cancer or are receiving treatment The program name is "Get Active, Feel Good" and can be contacted on 07543 827531 or at www.shropshire.nhs.uk/active-for-health and www.macmillan.org.uk/movemore

9. Date of Next Meeting. This will be **20th May 2014**

Please note: - Meetings for this year will be held: - 15th July 2014; 9th September 2014; 4th November 2014; 16th December 2014

Richard Shaw, Secretary
4th April 2014