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To: The Members
The Patient Participation Group

23rd October 2015

Dear Members

Firstly I must apologise for the delay in contacting you since the last meeting in September 2014. There has been a considerable amount of change in the NHS which has greatly impacted on the work at the surgery. As always the care of our patients is our priority but we do understand that the Patient Participation Group (PPG) is intended to be a support forum for the practice.

Since our last meeting NHS England has amended the GP contract to include the PPG as a contractual requirement, those who have been members for some time understand the difficulties we have had in patients willingness to join the group. We have yet to discover the magic formulae, I understand from colleagues at other practices that they have similar problems in recruiting members.

As mentioned above it is now a contractual requirement to have a PPG, however we have seen a decrease in the number of member attending meetings and I would like to suggest that with the retirement of Brian Procter as Chair and the difficulties we have to secure a room at the Health Centre we now have a "virtual" meeting; that is all future business of the PPG is conducted by e-mail or post. I would appreciate your comments on this point.

It has also been suggested that, with the approval of NHS England, all the four practice in Witham form one PPG for the whole of Witham so that common problems, processes and solutions can found for all Witham residents. The long term benefit would be that all Witham residents would be able to access the same level of care and practice would be able to share the scant resources made available by NHS England.

I would appreciate any comments on the above suggestion of an colligate PPG for Witham by 13th November 2015 if there are no objections raised by that date I will advise the other Witham practices that our group is happy to proceed on amalgamation.

Regards



John P Croager
Practice Manager