

Albrighton Patient Group

Minutes of Meeting 7th June 2016

Present:

Carol Illes, David Beechey, Sylvia Pledger, Sophia Sankey, Jennifer Sharpe, Jenni Thomas, Harriet Wood, Val Eastup, Ann Burgess, Dr Bird, Bill Wilkinson

Apologies:

Richard Shaw, Gill Sower

Rachel Wintle (Alzheimer's Society) was in attendance to give a talk to members about the work the national charity undertakes and to outline what support and services are available for patients in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

Dementia is an umbrella term for various diagnoses of which there are over 200. There is no proof it is hereditary or genetic, although there is a genetic test available but if the gene is found it won't automatically progress. For a diagnosis patients are referred to the memory clinic and undergo a series of tests. Once a diagnosis is confirmed the memory clinic will refer patients to Alzheimer's society and patients and carers will be able to access a support worker and services. There are 3 support workers for Shropshire. Patients can also be referred to Alzheimer's by the Care Co-ordinator, GP, relative or Red Cross.

Alzheimer's society works with Shropshire Dementia Action Alliance which in turn works with businesses and organisations, large and small, supporting them to become Dementia Friendly.

It is advised that everyone (regardless of age) should have a lasting power of attorney in place; this can be done online or via a solicitor. Everyone is also advised to have a conversation with their family about their own end of life.

Alzheimer's society helps patients and family to develop coping strategies and offers the following services:

- Singing for the brain (a structured event located in Bridgnorth)
- Dementia Café
- Peer Support Groups

Other Items

1. David Beechey is trying to set up a Care and Share group in Albrighton, specifically for patients with Dementia and their carers. Some money has been raised towards the initial set up costs of £4500 but there is a shortfall of £1900. This is being organised in conjunction with Shropshire Rural Communities Charity who would appoint the co-ordinator. A successful group has been established in Market Drayton. The set up costs will be one off costs as it is envisaged the group would become self-sufficient.

Discussion took place as to whether any of the money in the patient group bank account could be donated to this. Sylvia Pledger confirmed there was an amount of £1100 within the current account balance of £1600 that was to be used solely for setting up a carers group in Albrighton. The setting up of a carers group in Albrighton had been tried in 2013 but had failed. Members were concerned that if a carers group had been unsuccessful before the same thing may happen with the Care and Share group. There is also a need for other carers to be catered for. Members felt there was insufficient information to enable them to make a decision. Val Eastup suggested she speak to Julie, the practice care co-ordinator, as she has been involved in trying to establish the group.

2. Dr Bird thanked the two new members for attending the meeting and outlined the work the group had been involved in over the years.
3. Dr Bird asked if anyone would be willing to take over as chair of the group. Sylvia Pledger reminded Dr Bird the AGM was overdue, it usually takes place in May.
4. V Eastup, on behalf of Richard Shaw asked whether all members of the group were happy to share their emails with other group members. All members present were happy to do this.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th August 2016 @ 6.30pm