

Albrighton Patients' Group

Minutes of the Meeting held 1st September 2015 at 6.30pm

1. Present: - Valerie Eastup; Richard Shaw; Mary Hancox, Sylvia Pledger; Sophia Sankey; Dr. Bird; Len Warrilow; Christine Hassall; David Beechey

Apologies: - Ann Burgess; Beryl Shelton; Gill Sower; Jenny Thomas

The Group welcomed Jennifer Sharpe to the meeting.

2. The notes of the meeting held 30th June 2015 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Virtual Group. As requested the Secretary had contacted Shropshire CCG and received documents setting out what had been done already to assist other PGs. These indicated that the majority of work had been done through Practice Managers. The documents had been forwarded to Val Eastup for consideration. In the main it was apparent that groups had circulated Patients via e-mails supplied by the relevant Practice. This would probably result in one-way reporting only; patient to PG.

Dr. Bird emphasised that any Virtual Group **must** be run by the Patients Group. Following considerable discussion Dr. Bird asked the Group for a decision as to whether the idea of a Virtual Group should be carried forward. A positive response resulted and Sophia Sankey agreed to combine with Val Eastup to initially organise a Patients' Group e-mail address. Any eventual responses from Members would be directed to this address.

Invitations to join the Virtual Group will initially be circulated by an additional note being added to all Prescriptions, by a short article in the Parish Magazine and by Posters in the reception and Waiting Room areas. Responses will be invited to the PG e-mail address or the Secretary. The Practice Community Care Coordinator will also be involved.

3.2 FutureFit. A copy of the latest Press Release outlining the short list of options was discussed. A copy is attached to these minutes.

3.3 CoCo. Gill Sower had met with Dr. Macdonald and Vicar Mary Wade to discuss CoCo. She reported that it became obvious that there were a number of groups operating in Albrighton offering support to those who are elderly, lonely or vulnerable but that we and probably many others do not really know what each does or how they overlap. It is intended to contact these groups with a view to organising a public meeting where they can present their organisations. The hope is that this will provide useful information and serve as a way of recruiting more volunteers and forging useful links between organisations.

Gill Sower also provided a statement showing CoCo currently with an Expense Account holding £259 in the Patients' Group Account.

3.4 Waiting Room Rooflights. Unfortunately it had been determined that the windows could not be modified to accept an opening system. Dr. Bird indicated an air conditioning unit may be possible for the waiting room.

4. GP Survey. Off Agenda.

5. External Meeting Reports.

5.1 David Beechey. Because of the fragile situation with Shropshire Patients' Group and the uncertainties for its future, Health Watch may possibly undertake the Patients' Group organisation duties previously provided by Karen Higgins, supporting and guiding the Shropshire PG s.

5.2 Sylvia Pledger reported in the same vein that it had been considered that the Locality groups should take over from the SPG.

5.3 Gill Sower. In addition to the reports on FutureFit and CoCo referred to above, Gill Sower also reported a SPG meeting of 19th September 2015.

Hip and Knee procedures are under review due to the higher than national average cost of these operation in Shropshire. The aim is to offer greater support through physiotherapy and pain management.

Albrighton has been selected to participate in the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund initiative. This is being organised by Shropdoc and aims to increase the number of clinicians in primary care thus making appointments more available. The scheme is only open to those practices with EMIS and patients must be willing to share their medical records as the appointments may take place at neighbouring participating practices.

6. Treasurers Report.

Sylvia Pledger reported that our current account currently holds £575.

Sylvia Pledger and Gill Sower are to arrange a meeting to discuss the group's financial arrangements.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Staff News. A new Registrar, Dr. Niyi, has been appointed for twelve months.

Receptionists Denise, full time and Mandy, part time, have joined the staff. Receptionist Stephanie has left.

Care Coordinator Julie will be joining the staff shortly.

8. Date of Next Meeting. **This will be Tuesday 10th November 2015 at 6.30 PM at the Surgery**

Richard Shaw

14th September 2015