



**Len Valley Practice
Patient Participation Group Meeting**

Date: 30th September 2019

Time: 4pm

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Those in attendance:

Carol McKeough	-	Chairman of PPG
Elaine Moles	-	Practice Manager
Carol Cable	-	Assistant to the Practice Manager
Sally Phillips	-	PPG Member
Margaret Phillimore	-	PPG Member
Carol Burton	-	PPG Member
Sadie Curtis	-	PPG Member

Apologies:

Margaret Conan	-	PPG Member
Mairin Holland	-	PPG Member
Gillian Watson	-	PPG Member
Janet Smith	-	PPG Member
Margot Lawlor	-	PPG Member
Jenny Needham	-	PPG Member

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that there were a number of apologies for this meeting because some of the members were still at work at 4pm.

Carol reminded everyone present that although she sends out additional papers with agendas, she doesn't expect us to discuss everything in those papers at the meetings, some are for information only. The minutes of 22nd July were agreed as correct.

Carol attended a PPG Chair Group recently and one of the topics was Avoiding Diabetes. The group were asked whether they thought it would be a good idea to hold an event on Chronic Disease (Diabetes & Asthma) and get some speakers along to this event which could be held in either the Community Centre or local Church. It was felt that the more people about Diabetes & Asthma and their condition, the more they would understand how to deal with it.

At this stage Elaine mentioned that Len Valley had a new employee who is Maura O'Brien who is an Asthma Specialist Nurse. Maura has been working with the practice on Asthma reviews. The practice has been sending out letters to Asthma patients on "blue paper" inviting them in for a 1 hour consultation with Maura. A couple of the PPG Members mentioned they had not received one of these letters yet. Elaine was going to give their names to Maura to follow up.

Carol asked whether those present knew which practices formed part of our PCN (Primary care Network) and to confirm these are; Headcorn, Sutton Valance, Langley, Bearsted and Len Valley surgeries.

Carol mentioned she circulated an electronic copy of the West Kent Governing Body Summary for August 2019 to all members and asked them all to update themselves on the contents of this document which gave a good explanation of what is going on at the moment. One of the most important things is that CCGs are merging so there will be no longer be a West Kent, East Kent, Medway or Swale CCG. These CCGs will all be working under one umbrella and where this new group will be working hasn't been determined yet neither, has its new name.

Practice update on plans for Harrietsham & Lenham

Harrietsham Surgery: Elaine mentioned that there wasn't much to update members at the moment. A feasibility study has taken place and the practice are in discussion with the CCG and Surveyors regarding extending the surgery.

Lenham Surgery: Again, suggestions have been put forward and follow-up is awaited. The premises owner has to agree and authorise any structural changes before Elaine can proceed any further on extending the surgery.

There were concerns raised by the members about parking especially there not being enough parking spaces and when there is a meeting at the Community Centre, cars are already parking on the road. Further concerns were raised as to what the parking will be once the new housing development across the road commences.

Elaine mentioned that she has recently joined the Lenham Residents Group and their concerns were around parking and access for Emergency services. Parking is definitely an extra pressure on GP and other services locally and planning for the future.

New members of staff:

Elaine announced that Len Valley have a new Paramedic starting on Tuesday 1st October. Her name is **Lucy Miller**. Lucy is not a Prescriber but will be doing the course later in the year. In the meantime, she will be working closely with the Duty Doctor and seeing patients with sore throat, cough, colds, rashes, conjunctivitis, urine infections etc and also seeing housebound patients.

Alex North (Pharmacy Technician) is also joining Len Valley at the beginning of November. The plan is that Lucy and Alex together with 2 doctors will be doing a Ward round at Chippendale Lodge on a Thursday afternoon doing New Patient checks etc...

Progress on the Survey for Primary Care Network

To confirm, the POD will be hard-wired into the wall otherwise it will go missing. Once this has been received and mounted, the Patient Survey can be completed on line in the surgery.

There has been an update since the meeting. Direct Digital have unfortunately withdrawn the offer of an Information pod at the surgery and they couldn't raise enough sponsorship locally.

Walking for Health

Walking group going well. 13 people did a walking holiday to Boughton on the Water and everyone had a super time. **Jan** will be doing a report on the holiday which will be circulated with the next Agenda.

Building a Dementia Friendly (Maidstone)

Carol informed the members that she attended a meeting at Brachers in Maidstone and there were a lot of professional people and solicitors at the meeting. Carol thought it would be a good idea for the PPG to invite a speaker from Crossroads to talk about Dementia Friends at the PPG AGM on 18th November at 6.30. Sally mentioned that the Vicar was very interested in this. To encourage those with Dementia and Carers of those with Dementia (any type of dementia) to come along we need to consider advertising the PPG talk in the local "Network" magazine in Harrietsham and any other local magazines/papers very soon. Sally mentioned that she knew someone from **Focus** and would have a word with him to see if we could put something in the September issue. The aim would be to raise the awareness and support for Lenham and Harrietsham to become a dementia friendly community. In order for this to be a success we would need to involve the businesses in the 2 villages as well and the public. It would be very good to hold a coffee morning or afternoon tea in a café maybe a regular session as are happening in other parts of West Kent.

(After the meeting Carol contacted Kath Ireland from Crossroads who has agreed to attend the AGM to give a Dementia Friends talk and to answer questions) The AGM will be from 6.30 to 8pm.

Flu Clinics: The members were informed that although the Flu vaccinations were ordered directly after receiving the batch in 2018, there has been some delay and some problems in accessing the vaccine. The last update Elaine received about the Flu vaccinations was that we would only get a certain amount hopefully later October, but the practice would only have enough to vaccinate certain groups of people who are entitled to the vaccine. The other patients will have to wait until the bulk of the order is received.

There were some concerns that patients might be getting a Flu vaccine outside of the time frame, but Elaine did put their minds at rest that the Flu season **normally** runs from October to February/March 2020 and everyone will be done. Elaine has agreed to let Carol the Chairman know when the vaccines have been received and what group will be the first to be vaccinated. It was agreed that if the vaccines arrived in bulk, PPG members would support a flu clinic as in past years.

Update since the meeting: The Practice has now had 1700 doses delivered and will be able to vaccinate all groups of patients over 18 years (who qualify). As there has not been any formal advertising, yet, walk in clinics are available in the evening currently between 6-6.15pm. The Chairman passed the information to PPG members to alert other groups to the arrival of the vaccines and the arrangements made in the surgery.

End of Notes taken.

Carol Cable

Next Meeting will be the AGM on 18th November at 6.30 to 8pm.

