**PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING**

 **11th September 2023 AT 18.30**

 **SHEVINGTON SURGERY**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dave Brown (chair), Alan Mohring, Janene Davies, Angela Martin, Carole Miles, Beryl Smith, Alison Godfrey, David Suntha, Kerry White.

**APOLOGIES:** Elaine Ellams, Mary Davies, Joan Wadcock, Mike Grimes, Gemma Lowton.

Dave opened the meeting by welcoming David back.

The minutes of the previous meeting had already been sent out to members and these were accepted as a true record.

**SURGERY UPDATE:**  This is to be a new feature for meetings and is set to replace Ask my GP which is now considered to have been embedded, accepted by the majority of patients and is running well.

Kerry reports that the surgery has been and is very busy. There has been no evidence of the usual summer lull.

As with most GP practices at this time of year, the surgery has suffered from staff absences due to annual leave, plus staff sickness. They have been particularly impacted by absences of clinical staff for the same above reasons.

Currently surgery staff are winter pressure planning. They are investigating what funding is available and there is a plan to carry out extra clinics.

They are pleased to have the involvement of Dr Hamer who has a particular interest in carrying out minor ailments clinics. It is hoped to commence these to run Monday to Friday during the winter months.

Kerry informed the group about the outstanding performance by the team with regards to cytology testing. The group offered their congratulations and profound thanks to the team on behalf of the patient population.

The surgery is to benefit from the addition of a pharmacist attached to the surgery who it is hoped will commence employment in November 2023.

The annual flu clinic dates are confirmed as September 23rd which will be a full day and October 14th for half a day. The surgery will be holding mid week clinics also.

Once again the PPG will be supporting the Saturday clinics. Alan is to distribute the rota to those members who have put their names forward.

**TREASURERS REPORT.**  The account currently stands at £2,343. £60 of this will be paid to the Methodist church in Shevington in regards of rental of venue.

There was a discussion regarding availability of funds for the carers group. Beryl stated that it would probably be better if the funds available specifically for use by the carers group be reported on as a separate item. Angela has agreed to do this going forward.

**DIABETIC FORUM:** Alison feels that the group doesn’t appear to be widely known about, although it is acknowledged that the surgery does direct people towards participation in the group.

Kerry informed us that the surgery also includes information about the diabetes group on the surgery screen, facebook pages plus the use of word of mouth within the surgery itself.

**CARERS SUPPORT GROUP:** A discussion was held around how to make carers groups in general more inclusive e.g. encompass young carers and young adults etc.

**HEALTHWATCH:** Janene informed the group about the update on the safeguarding policies from Wigan council and offered to send the link to any interested parties.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Alan gave an update on the walking group, he explained that he is making contact with current groups to see if we can promote their groups, thus enabling participation of any interested people.

The PPG notice board is to be revamped and a “theme of the month” approach used to keep it fresh. The first theme is to be about the flu vaccination programme, and as such will be evident in the waiting room during the run up to the flu clinics and beyond as long as vaccines are available in the surgery.

Ideas for theme of the month will be welcomed.

There was a discussion regarding enhancing the profile of the PPG and making their presence known amongst the patient population by holding a Christmas raffle. It is hoped that members can source a gift, token or voucher from local businesses. All proceeds to be given to charity. With luck by mid October we should be in a position to be promoting the raffle with lists of prizes published.

Finally Dave informed the group that he will be having surgery within the next few weeks and as such will be absent from meetings. During this time Alan will chair and be taking on many of Daves’ responsibilities.

All present wish Dave a speedy recovery.

**The next meeting to be held at Shevington Surgery at 18.30 Monday 13th November 2023**