



Station Drive Surgery Patients Group



Meeting – 17th September 2019

Venue – Station Drive Surgery

In attendance – Pete Gillard (Chair), Caron Morton, Gill George, Roy Payne, Barbara Stephens, Chris Jeffrey, Jill Swift, Barbara Harris, Janice Forsyth, Betty Meredith

Apologies – Anne Hughes, Richard Summers

Agenda items

Minutes from previous meeting signed off

GP surgery update

Staff: - Katerina has retired but as planned she is back managing the finance, and Jodie & Amy continue as senior management. Indie will be returning to the nursing team part time after her maternity leave and we are also looking to recruit a senior nurse, possibly a nurse practitioner (a nurse trained to prescribe and carry out physical examinations) or a physician associate (not a doctor, but trained to a very high standard look at minor ailments, chronic disease, prescribing and so on).

Dr Mitchell joins as a partner on 15th November. Dr Harris left earlier than expected which has caused an immense pressure on the remaining GPs, who have given up their management time to cover all the clinics and are doing management duties in their own personal time. Therefore the service provided by the surgery, including the extended hours, remains unaffected – particularly with the support of a good strong nursing team – but the GPs are currently working unsustainable hours. We have looked at locums, but want to ensure they are experienced and suitable for the surgery. Old hands Dr Roger Davies and Dr Peter Taylor will be providing some support until we have a regular locum or nurse practitioner.

Training – Due to current pressures, we will cut back from two medical students to just one. Everything else remains the same, we are still accommodating a registrar and Dr Mitchell will undertake training so he can supervise the students.

Research: - The research has started and is going well. For example, for the atrial fibrillation research, 300 patients were identified and vetted, and are now coming in for ECGs followed by a review and a 24hr monitor. This screening has the potential to identify potentially major issues which would otherwise go unnoticed and indeed in a parallel project running slightly ahead of us, this has already happened. It is a super opportunity for our patients and it is something that the NHS may offer routinely in another few years.

Buildings & Car Parking: - The building work is finally complete! It is lovely, modern and practical, providing much needed space. The gardens are taking longer but will be planted soon. The car park will be redone with a top coat and white lines and now provides lots of room.

Clinics being offered – All our usual numerous clinics are being offered.

Mental Health Support – Laura Fisk has left and we now have Sandy Russell with us. He is a mental health practitioner with a background as a mental health nurse and psychology training. This is for therapy rather than signposting and he will see patients for 3-4 sessions as appropriate, with an hour-long first session followed by half-hour appointments. We are also planning to set up group sessions with Lauren aimed at young people coping with anxiety and self-esteem issues. This is a recovery programme and is a valuable opportunity for our patients.

Primary care networks: Caron Morton will be chairing this for two months to help with setting it up and getting it off the ground. They have agreed investment in social prescribing (Hands Together Ludlow) where we now have a lot to offer for all age groups. The private sector is involved; a local solicitors is offering free will and bereavement advice, and we have an accountants involved now also. It would be good if a representative from this group could attend the Hands Together meetings. The PCN will be employing a pharmacist who will be able to provide advice about end-of-life care etc. The sure start, breastfeeding groups and park run are also doing very well.

Surgery Newsletter: The first edition should be ready for the flu clinic on September 21st. This will include information about Econsult, which is the latest way to contact the surgery via the website for queries which do not necessarily require an appointment or where people can ask about symptoms and receive prompt advice back from a GP. This means patients are signposted for the correct tests and investigations prior to an appointment with the GP thus preventing valuable GP appointments being spent discussing medical history & symptoms and ensuring there are more appointments available for required examinations.

Clinical Commissioning Group: The NHS constitution allows patients to choose their appointment location for acute conditions; however, a number of clinics have been moved to community settings where there is no choice. The GPs at Station Drive do try to refer to people's closest area, and will add to their workload by referring someone several times until they are successful, and it was noted that there is a well-hidden opt-out clause in the constitution that says the GP can choose a different location if they feel it more appropriate.

CCG Mergers: Shropshire CCG and Telford CCG plan to merge and will provide a single integrated care service provider. This is a concern for rural practices because Shropshire and Telford have very different demographics. The merger is due to take place by April/May 2020 unless a judicial review delays it on the grounds that it hasn't taken patient wishes into account.

Maternity: The headline in a local paper recently was about a baby born in a car park in Hereford. Ludlow MIU is still closed to births but the expected permanent closure has been mysteriously delayed and there is a small glimmer of hope with a new director of midwifery being appointed.

Future Fit: This is still under review with the Secretary of State.

Flu Clinic: The Patients Group are planning to attend and try to recruit some new members.

AOB

The Patients Group extended their thanks and admiration to the GPs for all their hard work currently keeping the surgery working to full capacity despite being understaffed.

The Patients Group asked Dr Morton about a perceived prevalence of brain cancer in the area which had been mentioned in a previous meeting. This is still being looked into.

**Date for next meeting 19th November
at 19:30 at Station Drive Surgery.
Agenda items to Pete or Caron prior to meeting**