

## **Minutes ASK PPG Meeting Held 21/11/17 Room 3 Whitegate Medical Centre at 6pm.**

**Members Present:** Luan Stewart (LS); Susan Stratton (SS); Sue Ransome (SR); Viv Critchley (VC); John Butler (JCB); Gavin Quick (GQ); Nathan Skelton (NS)

**Apologies Received:** George Goldthorp (GG); Jo Booth (JB); Ann Allen (AA)

Chairs Remarks: JCB advised his only comment was to wish everyone Merry Christmas (next meeting would take place in January 2018).

**Minutes Previous Meeting:** These were agreed as true and correct

**Matters Arising:** Kentmere looks nice after its makeover. The change in email addresses for staff to @nhs.net is still in the pipeline and Dr Augustine (female doctor) is still doing locum work and had in fact extended her hours).

**PPNG (Patient Participation Network Group):** NS gave a brief outline of how this group currently operates, that the government demand every practice has its own PPG but then leaves it to each practice how it operates. In Blackpool this ranges from one PPG that acts as a fundraiser and another that has meetings and raises a few questions for its practice and the CCG. Others fit in between. His role is of communications officer for the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). At present attendances at the PPNG are dwindling so the intention is to move the location for its meetings away from the NHS offices at BFC stadium and instead hold meetings in the community room at Tesco's. Further to now have these meetings every 2 months and to have them between 1 pm and 4 pm.

The next meeting is set for Jan 24 and at this meeting he (NS) would act as chair but from then on it was for the practices to appoint a chair and to determine what questions and points it wanted raised with the CCG. NS would attend these meetings and take any common issues raised away and present them to the CCG.

NS also advised Blackpool CCG is looking to join forces with Fylde and Wyre who are more advanced in this area (every year they hold a patient conference).

The question of non computer users was raised and NS acknowledged it was an area that needs looking at but that recently the instruction had been sent out for practices to look at reducing its postage. Greater use of online and social media was also an area to be investigated.

**Practice Update:** LS advised that JB sent her apologies and unfortunately due to work/life issues would not be able to attend any more evening meetings.

LS also advised that due to an upcoming surgical procedure SS would be absent for the next few meetings (we were assured it was not for a major problem).

The meeting sent its appreciation to JB for all her good work to date and wished her well with her work/life balance. We also wished SS well with her upcoming surgery.

LS then advised the proposed Christmas lunch was going ahead on Dec 6 at Dahlia's Kitchen. Dr Cruz had wanted it there because it had to be held near Kentmere Drive on a Wednesday (availability of doctors) and to have it at a local business and so Dahlia's Kitchen it was. The question of logistics arose and VR said if she was made aware of the details (buses only go to big Tesco's) she would offer a lift to those who did not have cars.

LS referred to the upgrade at Kentmere Drive and how good it was looking. She then advised the meeting she could now reveal that the surgery was in talks to merge with South King St and create the biggest practice in Blackpool. The 2 partners at South King St would join the 3 at Adelaide St/Kentmere Drive and the merger will happen in April. S King St do not currently have a practice manager so LS will cover both. This is regardless of the new building proposed.

With regard to the building we were told 40% funding had been obtained and the partners had invested their own money to ensure full funding. The building would have 26 rooms for clinical use and Blackpool Council have agreed in principal to it but a couple of snags remain in that the council want the outside to be blue and silver to fit in with plans for the local environment. Eventually Adelaide St would be levelled and a new building put where Comrades Club was and the surgery is. South King St will be levelled and become a car park for the new building.

**AOB:** The question of prescriptions arose in particular the green form. We were told this was basically a comms problem and one to be taken up with Pharmisense.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 23 Jan 2018, Whitegate Medical Centre Room 2