

**MINUTES OF THE GREAT BENTLEY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP HELD
ON
HELD ON THURSDAY 18th January 2018
AT 6.30PM IN THE MITCHELL ROOM, GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Chaired by Melvyn Cox
Present: Barry Spake Communications Officer
Charles Brown, Vice Chair/Treasurer
Kathy Chilvers, Secretary
Surgery Guest Dr Bhatti (non attendee)
+ 9 Members

1. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Apologies were received from Mr & Mrs Bishop and from Dr Bhatti who would be late to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting:

No points were raised and approval for the minutes 16th November was given.

3. PPG Liaison Meeting 18th October 2017 and 17th January 2018

In the October meeting the main topic of discussion was the wastage of medicine. We had discussed this in our last meeting and details were in last minutes. Self care was also discussed and it was suggested that people should keep a stock of items such as cough medicine and aspirins etc. so that if they were unwell with something like a cold, they would not have to go out to buy such things.

Support for PPGs was discussed as some surgeries (unlike ours) do not give much support at all to their PPG's – even to the extent that in one case where a person asked about a PPG, the surgery were not sure if they had one. Arrangements for how to get more people into PPGs and to attend meetings were discussed. One local surgery had meetings during the day at the surgery. This would not be possible for us at Great Bentley for practical reasons.

Again “supersurgeries” and groups were a topic but there has not been much progress or information about these at the moment. Transport difficulties to access some locations like Abbeyfields and some others where a change in the frequency of buses has occurred was mentioned.

There are no formal minutes for the January meeting as yet but here are the main points.

There was meant to be an audiology presentation but the presenter had to cancel at short notice.

Colchester Hospital Cancer group are compiling a new leaflet setting out what should happen when a person is diagnosed as possibly having cancer. This would contain details such as when they should be seen by the hospital and other important information. They want these to be put up in doctor's surgeries and hope it should be available shortly.

PPG recruitment was discussed again and members were asked to bring ideas back to the next meeting.

There have been some further CQC reports and Fronks Road Harwich, East Lyne Clacton and Lawford Surgeries which had inspections before Christmas, have been given a list of things to improve.

4. Hollies Surgery News – Dr Bhatti

Unfortunately Dr Bhatti was not able to arrive before the meeting finished so there is no surgery news this month. Just to note this is highly unusual as our surgery always sends a representative to our meetings.

5. NHS NEWS ITEMS:

a) European Medicines Agency leaving the UK and relocation to Amsterdam.

This is happening now not when the UK leave the EU. It is still not known what the arrangements will be for our medicines to be approved when we leave.

b) New Initiatives Locally

Over Christmas there was an initiative called "Don't Bottle It Up" about excess consumption of alcohol and they were handing out Bottled water to re-hydrate people in Colchester.

Neurological patients are going to be given a budget for them to choose between either the Therapies, Medical Supplies or the Treatment that they wish to have.

The Nuffield Trust asked 12 of their top executives what they thought would be happening over the next year. Here are a few of their thoughts: -

- Online doctors will creep into the NHS not just in the Private sector (Our practice manager gave information about this in our last meeting and is in those minutes)
- Immigration bill that will enable NHS staff from overseas to remain and new staff to be allowed to enter the UK.
- The Pay Review Board will award a 3% pay rise to NHS workers in Scotland.
- NHS Trusts are likely to end their year (May 2018) with a £4M deficit. Considerably higher than previously predicted.
- Perhaps a new infrastructure to accelerate the introduction of innovations.
- 8 regions of UK are likely to evolve into "Accountable Care Systems". This could be subject to a strong challenge from those opposed to Privatisation. NHS denies that this is Privatisation.

c) What can we expect for 2018

- The Social Care Green Paper which is due to be issued next month is likely to be highly contentious and will need cross party support to get through..
- It is suggested that the NHS might scrap or otherwise adapt the present "Quality & Outcome Framework" method that forms part of GP's income. GP's probably won't like this and any challenge could spoil their chances of something better.
- The NHS winter problems are likely to last for another 3 months and due to backlogs they are not in a good position to withstand the pressure.

d) Can a Hypothecated Tax save the NHS

This is where a chunk of income can only be used for one thing such as the NHS. There is a precedent as this has been done in the past (Royal Navy, Education, etc). The members discussed this – paying an extra amount of tax or National Insurance being only used for the NHS. The majority of our membership seemed in favour of this happening.

6. Open Forum:

One member asked whether we think the NHS in future is going to be privatised? A show of hands indicated that many members agreed with this view.

7: Any Other Business

One member praised the physiotherapy department at Clacton hospital where he received very good treatments with excellent clear information about what the physiotherapist was doing and exactly why.

Melvyn Cox told the meeting about the "Helping Hands" transport facility for those to get to medical appointments etc. if they did not have transport. It did have a membership fee (£15) and a mileage cost (min £5) but was far cheaper than having to use a taxi service. Especially if many medical appointments were required. The driver would wait for up to 2 hours for the return trip.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Thursday 15th February 2018

The meeting closed at 19:30 hours.

Kathleen Chilvers
Secretary

- PPG Minutes 18th Jan 2018.doc