

**MINUTES OF THE GREAT BENTLEY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2016
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
Simon Morgan, CCG
12 Members

1. Welcome, Introduction:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced our Guest Speaker Simon Morgan.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Richard Miller; Lynda McWilliams; Annie Johnston; Alison Brookes; Alison Brothock; Helen Hansen, Mr & Mrs Burchell, and Colin Wall.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting:

No points were raised and approval of the minutes for 21 July 2016 was given.
No meeting was held during August.

4. Group PPG Summit Meeting 25 July 2016:

Melvyn Cox gave a report of the meeting which was hosted by Simon Morgan. Several of the PPG have got together and formed a cluster. It appears to be extremely effective as it gives them a good voice on the CCG. If anyone is interested in us forming a group with other PPG's let Melvyn Cox know. A PPG case study in Colchester had started a virtual PPG site similar to ours. Those present spoke about setting-up a website for the Gt Bentley PPG – Melvyn to check with Richard Miller about the possibility of setting up a web page on the Surgery Site. Simon spoke about the change during August to the repeat prescriptions pharmacies issue in our area to reduce waste, by only issuing what is requested. The Big Care Debate is available here should anyone wish to see it. The Peter Bruff Ward is moving from Clacton to Colchester. The Helena Hospice is becoming a joint provider to give elected choices to people about what they want; bedside care; nursing home; help with bereavement. Simon gave the website address for the CCG www.neessexccg.nhs.uk

A lady member mentioned that the St. Helena Hospice was excellent in handling the situation of palliative care and bereavement concerning the recent death of her husband. The booklet "What do I do now?" supplied by Colchester Hospital Bereavement Suite was very good, but could do without the advertisements for Funeral Directors.

5. Simon Morgan: "How worthwhile PPG feedback is to the CCG".

Simon spoke about the Primary Care Transformation Strategy. The recent survey has had three to four hundred completed replies so far. Simon brought a questionnaire that can be completed and returned to the CCG by free post should anyone like to take part in it. The CCG website (www.neessexccg.nhs.uk) requires an overhaul to make it look more modern, so any suggestions to make improvements to it would be appreciated. A handout for the latest health service 'APP' 'Connecting Patients & Services'. More information is available on the Smart GP website:

<https://smart-gp.co.uk/>

Because we do value input from the PPG's, during October / November we will be hoping to involve PPG's with our meetings.

6. Barry Spake – Recent medical experiences:

Barry spoke about his recent accident whilst on holiday and about the excellent treatment he received from an off-duty nurse who was able to contain the badly bleeding finger. She called out a First Responder, but an Emergency Ambulance attended and continued the first aid. Barry sent an e-mail to Yorkshire Ambulance Service praising them and thanking them for the first-class treatment. Barry also contacted the Hull Royal Infirmary and managed to get a message of thanks to the nurse who was so helpful. Shortly after his return Barry contracted Shingles and explained the problems in obtaining treatment and medicine over the August Bank Holiday.

7. Latest NHS News:

Melvyn explained to those present that according to the NHS, large scale hospitals are the way forward. That hospital delays are on the rise. Digital Health Care is the next big thing to help the NHS reduce the waiting lists. Many NHS trusts claim that in truth the NHS is near breaking point.

A discussion took place concerning the problems of patients occupying beds when awaiting social services to allow them to be discharged. Simon Morgan gave some key facts of information about the procedure of repeat prescriptions being altered to reduce waste; delayed discharge from hospital issues; and how it is a nightmare trying to get an appointment to see a GP. Attempts continue to encourage GP's to the area with recruitment drives and incentive schemes. Concern was raised over the number of houses being built and the pressure on the surgeries to accommodate new patients. A member mentioned how good the Essex County Hospital was at saving a PPG members sight as Boots had not provided information as to the severity of her situation.

8. Surgery News:

No representative was available from the surgery to attend the meeting.

9. Date and time of next meeting:

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday 20 October 2016 at 18:30 hours in the Mitchell Room.

Simon Morgan was thanked by those present.

The meeting concluded at 19:28 hours.

Charles C. Brown
(In Secretary's absence)