

# MINUTES OF THE GREAT BENTLEY PATIENT PARTICIPATION MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2015

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  
Judy Ward, Secretary  
Richard Miller, Practice Manager  
D F Bhatti, Partner  
+ 22 Members

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from John and Agnes Walters; Lynda McWilliams; Mrs Baverstock and.

## 3. Minutes of the last Meeting

No points were raised and approval for the Minutes was given.

## 4. Update on last month's topic from a "Virtual Group member": Repeat Dispensing vs Repeat Prescribing

Melvyn stated that a Virtual Member had reported having trouble getting prescriptions on time from the Green Pharmacy and commented that these should be ready on time.

The Pharmacy had received a copy of the last PPG Minutes and took exception; they interpreted the wording as being "how to run their pharmacy". The PPG was in fact making a comment.

It was noted that the NHS website states that this is how it works, ie the prescriptions should be ready on time but the Pharmacy is taking the request from the patient and actioning it in a few days. This can cause annoyance in the time factor taken and often entails another visit to the Pharmacy. The Pharmacy appears to wait until the patient requests the medication.

Melvyn commented that the surgery should be getting some benefit by issuing sixth months prescriptions in advance.

Dr Bhatti commented that a Doctor does not have to issue prescriptions but if it is not working for you, then order each one. There is a choice. Perhaps invite the Pharmacy owner to debate this?

Perhaps this should be negotiable as patients are the customers?

Melvyn thinks that perhaps we have sorted this now.

It was noted that \* The Spine issues prescriptions before they are due to be dispensed.

Dr Bhatti suggested that we look at other pharmacies such as Boots in St Osyth.

A member commented that perhaps there was a difficulty storing prescriptions made up in advance.

It was also suggested that the Pharmacy should have the stock in ready as they would know what they need. Perhaps it is problematic in the buying in of drugs ie a cash flow problem.

The discussion concluded with Melvyn stating that the situation would be under constant review.

\* The Spine is a collection of national applications, services and directories that support the NHS in the exchange of information across national and local NHS systems. The Spine connects clinicians, patients and local service providers throughout England to essential national services.

## 5. Update on last month's Request for Volunteers for "My Social Prescription"

Jan reported that since the last meeting there are now two more volunteers. Their application forms have been sent and training will need to be undertaken.

Jan explained that volunteers go into GP surgeries to support non-medical issues by helping patients seek appropriate help and to put them in contact with other agencies eg befriending. Patients can self refer or be referred by family.

Each surgery must have two volunteers at each session and, as Jan is Great Bentley's sole volunteer currently, she is volunteering at a practice in Colchester.

## 6. **Hollies Surgery News**

Richard reported the following:

- We are saying "goodbye and thank you" to Dr Corinne Vine who has just qualified as a GP and is to take up a new post as a partner at the Parsons Heath, Colchester, GP practice. Everyone wished her well for the future.

- A new GP Registrar will be starting on 2 November..

- Dr Bhatti reported that we will have five weeks of final year medical students from Cambridge starting on 9 November. She encourages as many patients as possible to book appointments with these students for anything at all! These students will be followed by fourth year students.

Judy suggested that they attend the next PPG meeting.

- A member asked if the practice would have a pharmacist.

Richard has investigated the Government scheme and stated that there are limited funds. It would be very high costs and only a year's commitment ie it would be subsidised in the first year, then no more money would be given.

Discussion and debate then took place regarding the NHS CCG funding cuts of specific drugs and services: examples such as hearing aids, sterilisation, vasectomy. Dr Bhatti said we must look at the present situation and at the service restrictions.

It was noted that the NHS is being slowly privatised. The Locum Agency is sustaining the NHS with agency doctors as there is a big exodus of young doctors to work abroad.

There was also discussion of media figures relating to unsafe hospitals which are not correct and are examples of "using" figures.

## 7. **AGM Reminder on Voting**

Melvyn reminded members that the AGM will be held at the next meeting, Thursday 19 November 2015, Forms for Officers of the Committee will be available. Current members of the Committee will stand unless other members will stand.

Please come and vote!

## 8. **AOB**

- Alan Bishop reported that he and Judy attended the CCG AGM last Tuesday which was well organized and interesting. The outcome is very gloomy with a £8.1m deficit and £14m less to spend. There was no information of the actual effects.

It was well attended by doctors and health service employees but Alan and Judy were the only members of the public to attend. This public meeting is the only time to look at what is going on.

Discussion took place about the effects of cuts eg on drugs and doctors.

Alan mentioned Beacon House in Colchester, a faith led day refuge for the homeless which is part sponsored by the CCG and currently admits clients who would otherwise go to A&E. The CCG cuts could impact on Beacon House as it is financed by donations.

- Judy Bishop highlighted the loss of Great Bentley's number 77 bus, to Colchester, on 20 December, as the bus is not \*DDA compliant. A petition has gone off to Essex County Council. This will leave villagers without a bus. \* Discriminatory Disability Act

There is an online public survey "Essex County Council Bus Review Survey" on the Essex County Council website – members were encouraged to take part promptly as the deadline is 21 October . 2015.

It was suggested that the PPG write to Bernard Jenkin MP and to Essex County Council.

- Local housing planning and development was discussed briefly especially relating to 150 houses planned to be built in Plough Road adjacent to the industrial estate. There is a proposed extension to the industrial estate which, coupled with the housing, will impact on more traffic and people. It was noted that no approach had been made to the surgery re the infrastructure and the village Primary School is currently full. People can make comment on the Local Plan

9. **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Thursday 19 November 2015 at 6:30pm in the Mitchell Room. This will be our AGM so do please come along and vote. If you cannot attend, please vote by email.

Please note there will be no meeting in December.

The meeting closed at 19:45.

Judy Ward  
Secretary