

MINUTES OF THE GREAT BENTLEY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING HELD
ON THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 6.30PM
IN THE MITCHELL ROOM, GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL

Chaired by Melvyn Cox
Vice Chair/Treasurer Charles Brown
Communications Officer Barry Spake
Secretary Diane Miles
Surgery Guest Dr G Pontikis
Guest Speaker Jackie Fairweather, Engagement Officer
Colchester Community Voluntary Services
In Attendance 19 Members

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said there were no apologies received.
2. Minutes of the last meeting: No points were raised and the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January were approved.
3. Jackie Fairweather gave an interesting and detailed account of the work of 'My Social Prescription' run by Colchester Voluntary Services. Jackie liaises regularly with Richard Miller, Surgery Manager, and there are contact sessions held at the surgery for patients on the last Wednesday of the month 9am – 12pm. The Social Prescription is a non-clinical intervention body, that provides transport facilities, offers social support for patients with eating disorders and similar, support for carers and offers friendship for the lonely and all areas covering mental health. The organisation liaises with Community Matrons and will be developing their links with ACE.
4. CCG Local Health Matters: Barry Spake reported on the recent meeting held in Harwich on 8 February where there were 7 people in the audience. Dr Sweeney Chair of the NE Essex Commissioning Group gave a lecture on the conception of the NHS. He gave details of the current Caring situation, possible ways of reducing the workload on A&Es. It was mentioned that the A&E departments at Southend and Broomfield Hospitals are being considered for closure which raises many concerns of residents in this area of Essex. A full report of this meeting can be found on North East Essex CCG Website. Linda McWilliams a local councillor (Portfolio Holder re Health) added thoughts as to how self-help can often avoid visits to A&E and how she supports the continuation of walk-in centres and minor injury units in Harwich, Clacton and Colchester, which are under threat.
5. Surgery News: Dr G Pontikis It has been a busy January with 3778 consultations which was 700 more than in December. 32304 prescriptions were issued in January of which 22000 were electronics to the Pharmacy. DNAs were down from 66(Dec) to 63(Jan). The telephone queuing system has gone well, calls in December totalled 4510 and in January 5272. There are 8-10 lines coming in at any one time so your patience and understanding is appreciated. Regarding the expansion to the surgery premises there are 3 options under consideration:
 - A custom building by Hills Building Group
 - The possible purchase of Bentley House
 - Another (unnamed) Group has shortlisted some optionsThere will be a feasibility study in the near future.
There are nearly 9000 patients registered at The Hollies and there is a ratio of one and a half thousand patients to each GP. The NHS awards £80.89/patient/year.
Patients are requested to phone in for triage and not walk-in for this service.
6. As from March there will a NO SMOKING policy throughout the grounds of Colchester hospital. Melvyn drew our attention to the article taken from The Week 11 February, and there were copies available and were also sent with the agenda.
7. There being no AOB the meeting closed at 7.46pm
8. The next meeting will be on 16 March 2017