

Minutes of the Great Bentley Patient Participation Group

Thursday 18 September 2014

Chaired by - Melvyn Cox

Present :

Charles Brown - Vice Chairman/Treasurer

Dr Karen Chumbley - Practice

Richard Miller - Practice

Ted Beckwith - Guest Speaker

8 members/visitors present

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and recorded apologies received from Cllr Linda McWilliams, Sharon Batson, Barry Spake and Louise Herbert

2. Minutes of last meeting

Two attendees reported that no Minutes had been received and spare copies were distributed. The Minutes were then agreed without objection.

3. Guest Speaker – Ted Beckwith, the Public Representative on NEECCG End of Life Committee

Melvyn introduced the Guest Speaker and Ted thanked our PPG for the invitation to address the group.

He outlined the structure of the various bodies (12) that comprise the End of Life Committee and explained how they came to form into that body.

Ted detailed 4 case histories of people and their problems and the outcomes that had been achieved.

The Question and Answer session produced a few routine enquiries and Ted offered that anyone could have his E-mail address for a more private contact should they wish to. This could be obtained from Melvyn who held the necessary details. Several useful documents were to hand for members use, including drafts of a document to cover all such EOL contingencies. Further copies can be obtained from Melvyn.

In thanking Ted for his address Melvyn added his own thoughts that should one fall unable, through illness, to perform normal decision making, it is vital to have made contingency plans. A Stroke or full-blown Heart Attack can present this situation in an instant.

Dr Chumbley stressed the benefits of outlining EOL requests in a formal document. She had experience of people being reluctant to deal these matters and yet it is after all such a necessary thing to do.

4. Outreach Report – AGM meeting of Colchester Hospital Univesity Trust (CHUFT)

Judy Bishop detailed the key points from this meeting and unfortunately, many were negative.

A report from The Director of Nursing had been heavily criticised and was basically ridden with holes.

Further instances of communication failures were apparent and any progress that CHUFT wished to make was now very thin on the ground. The Chief Executive has been paid at a rate of £1,000 per day despite CHUFT's finances showing a deficit of £3.5M. Whilst such a premium pay rate might not be unusual for key personnel, top class results are expected and quickly, this is not happening.

The post of Secretary had not been filled and it is suspected that no-one of good ability will want to come to Colchester as it's poor reputation proceeds it.

CHUFT has 6,500 public members and yet only our members Judy & Alan Bishop bother to attend meetings. Judy reported rudeness towards her from a Board Director which is not what one expects when performing a public service for the good of the community.

5. Hollies Surgery News

Richard advised that the new Electronic Prescription Service commenced on Tuesday 16/9/2014 and was running smoothly.

6. Any Other Business

Melvyn asked the meeting whether the Group would prefer to meet in the Michael Wright Room where we first met, as there had been considerable noise transmitted into this room previously from the Karate class next door. However tonight (following a request) it was reasonably quiet and the vote was evenly split. The decision will be deferred until a later meeting (The current room is booked until the end of the year).

Charles Brown announced that at long last the PPG now had it's own bank account. This had taken nearly 6 months to get opened. We have been funded by the Surgery with an initial £500.

7. Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 16 October 2014 6.30pm Great Bentley Village Hall - Mitchell Room

Melvyn Cox
Chair PPG
(In Secretary's absence)