

MINUTES OF PPG MEETING – 17 APRIL 2024

Present

Dr Otobo – GP Partner

Georgie Weir – Practice Manager

Simon Peters – Chair

Jeannette Cooney – Minutes

Jane Upward – PPG Member

Apologies

Sue Conley

Margaret Quincey

David Sibley

Carol Gardener

Natalie Rayner

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Matters arising from the Minutes

Jane reported that Fenland Dementia were very happy with the way the appointments system was working at RHC. All agreed that the re-surfacing of the car park and the clearly marked disabled spaces was a great improvement – Simon commented that the side entrance to the building/garden area seems to be being used as a short cut and this could be a safety issue. Georgie to report to Property Services.

West Cambridgeshire Federation

There has been little progress on this since our last meeting. Part of the GP contract is to provide Enhanced Access. RHC used to outsource this requirement to West Cambs Federation. RHC have been working closely with their Primary Care Network (PCN), Fenland PCN and with Cambs & P'boro Integrated Care Board (ICB) – the body that commissions Primary Care to decide and agree on how these hours will be provided. Currently, RHC are providing the hours within the working day, but this is not a long term solution as this gives little benefit to the working population. The situation is ongoing.

Patient Numbers

The question of increased patient numbers due to the amount of new housing in Ramsey and surrounding areas was raised again and Jane reported that she had recently attended a local planning meeting where the question of infrastructure (or lack of) was high on the agenda. Dr Otobo said this has not yet impacted too much on RHC – probably due to 2 local nursing homes closing leading to patients being sent elsewhere, and a severe winter leading to a higher number of deaths. He did feel however that this will change and RHC will inevitably feel the pressure from an increased demand. Unfortunately, there is not enough room for us to expand plus the fact that there is no extra funding forthcoming from the ICB to enable such expansion and the recruitment of extra doctors.

Patient list size is steadily rising:

Jan 2020 7047

Jan 2021 6999

Jan 2022 7070

Jan 2023 7307

Jan 2024 7376

Apr 2024 7447

Any Other Business

Jane congratulated RHC on some positive comments she had heard and it was generally felt that the triage system was working well. Dr Otobo and Georgie thanked Jane for passing on the information – always good to have positive feedback. Today's meeting was held in the waiting room due to a leak in the Health Education room. As the pipes are old and are all underground Property Services have decided to re-route them through the roof rather than carry out repairs. This will obviously take time and will also affect the heating system.

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm and the next meeting arranged for 17th July at 1.00 pm when hopefully more PPG members will be more able to attend.