

MINUTES OF PPG MEETING – 19 JULY 2024

Present

Dr Otobo - GP Partner
Georgie Weir – Practice Manager
Simon Peters – Chair
Jeannette Cooney – Minutes
Carol Gardner
Margaret Quincey
Sue Conley
Jane Upward

Apologies

David Sibley

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

West Cambridgeshire Federation

Since our last report on the question of how to provide enhanced access to patients the situation has changed as West Cambs Federation no longer exists. Originally RHC shared the extra hours required with 3 other Practices within the March area and outsourced to locums but is now working on how to best manage the situation itself. Unfortunately the government funding for this initiative provided for extra hours but did not cover the extra staff required for it to work.

Patient Numbers

The Practice currently has 7472 patients but despite this slight increase is receiving less money due to a reduction in its 'weighting' i.e extra funding for an older demographic. Due to 2 local care homes closing and the new housing developments mostly occupied by younger people, RHC has fewer older patients resulting in a reduced weighting. Dr Otobo commented that this did not take deprivation into account.

DNAs

Georgie reported 96 DNAs during June – a mix of HCAs and doctors. A discussion was had re sending out reminders – Georgie confirmed that all patients are sent a confirmation text when an appointment is made initially and if the Practice is aware of any specific dementia problems an additional reminder is sent. It was agreed she would check that the reminder system was working as it should and also investigate if there were any particular areas to target re DNAs. Simon asked whether RHC was implementing the system to remove patients for persistent DNA (or other) offences

and if so whether this applied only to the patient concerned or to other family members as well. Action taken is based on each individual case.

Heating system

The updating of the heating system as discussed at the last meeting is making slow progress. It had been expected to be completed during the summer which now looks unlikely. Hopefully we will have a mild winter.

Any Other Business

Dr Otobo raised a rather worrying situation that is likely to impact all GP Practices and will affect us all. A rural Practice in Cambridgeshire with approximately 7000 patients (very like Ramsey) recently found their service charges increased significantly and on applying to the NHS for financial help to meet this increase were given an extra £10 per patient. This was not enough to solve the problem so they handed back their contract only to find it taken over by another group – a private health provider – who were then given £40 per patient. The aim of this new group (of which there could soon be many more) is to digitalise the whole system using AI, more computers and outsourcing to locums. This is not what doctors (who have the main share of patient contact but only receive 7% of funding) want – or indeed their patients. At the moment the NHS stipulates where and how GPs spend any funding they receive rather than allowing them to make these decisions themselves in the best interests of the Practice and patients. As GPs are not allowed to strike there may well be certain forms of passive non-compliance in the future in order to highlight these concerns and we will watch this space with interest.

Staffing Updates - Dr Funmi Dada left the practice in July, she's relocating due to family commitments. And sadly Dr Becky Schofield is leaving in October. Since the meeting Dr Nadir Khan has joined the team to replace Dr Dada. You may remember him from his time with us in 2022 as GP Registrar. We are also looking for another GP to replace Dr Schofield.

Flu clinic will be Saturday 12th October. We would be grateful for any willing PPG volunteers to assist with the smooth flow of patients through the practice.

Next PPG meeting is pencilled in for Friday 18th October.

There being no other business the meeting closed shortly after 14:00 and the next meeting arranged for Friday 18th October.