

Knebworth and Marymead Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Minutes of the Full Meeting 23rd October 2018 at Knebworth Surgery 7.00 pm

Leader: Joy Hall, Minutes: Graham Fothergill

- 1. Present:** Joy Hall, Amanda Preedy, Graham Fothergill, Chryssie Cobbold, Ken Spooner, Angela Dormer, David Wilkinson, Jan Burt, Anthony Dollimore, Robert Sprigge, Ian Gilmore, Penny Berry, Alison Howse, Kay Loveless, David Bartlett, Gill Bartlett, Sally Elliott .

Apologies: Tony Stowe, Rosie Chisnell, Sharon Kay, Wendy Abbott, John Townend, Mike Pye, Catherine Cusson, Vivienne Fountain.

Introductions: Joy welcomed everyone to the Meeting. Alison Howse explained that she represented Knebworth Library and Penny Berry confirmed that she was representing the Neighbourhood Plan team.

- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 3. Minutes and Matters Arising from Meeting held on 25th September:** Agreed.

There were no Matters Arising.

4. Practice Update

New Knebworth Surgery: Ken confirmed that all relevant leases had been signed but that final exchanges were awaited. Alison reported that, as yet, there was no start date for the transfer of the library to St Martin's Church. Crucial factors appear to be a delay in the installation of telephone lines in the church by BT (Who will need 13 weeks to do this) and the reluctance of Rev'd Jim Pye to allow the library to move during the December pre-Christmas period. Alison felt that the best estimate for the library move would be January/February and confirmed that the physical movement of books and equipment would be carried out by a contractor and this would take only 2-3 days to complete.

Flu Vaccination Programme: There are still supply problems with the Aduvant flu vaccine for the over 65s. The latest batch will be used in our clinics in the next few days, the next batch is due for delivery on 2nd November. Ken stated that there would then be sufficient for all patients who require this vaccine. Information about the situation will be posted on the website, facebook and the noticeboards. Ken confirmed that this supply problem was as a result of manufacturing issues together with a short-sighted approach by NHS England.

Extended Access: Ken explained that the Practice is still in discussion with the CCG to try to allow Knebworth and Marymead patients to be able to use either the Stevenage or Welwyn Garden City hubs (or both) for evening and weekend appointments. This may be as well as, or instead of, the Letchworth hub. In response to a question from Robert, Ken stated that the HUC 111 Service were giving out details of these Extended Access clinics.

Medication Shortages: Ken provided details relating to supply shortages of Epi-pens, Junior Epi-pens and hepatitis vaccines. This again appears to be as a result of manufacturing problems relating to the emergence of monopoly suppliers. Patients requiring these preparations are being advised accordingly.

Practice Website: Ken reported that the website is undergoing a minor revamp which should result in improved information resources for dementia, diabetes and asthma/COPD.

Winter Pressures: This year the Practice will receive only £10,000 from the CCG for the funding of additional appointments during the winter period; this is down from £28,000 three years ago. Ken explained that in 2008 11% of the total NHS budget was for General Practice funding, it is now only 7% whilst Practice costs continue to rise.

5. Health Week

Ken reported that the Practice, with involvement and support from the PPG, is planning to run a health week sometime in February 2019 where there will be stands and staff available to cover areas like like sexual health, obesity, smoking cessation, what you can get from the surgery, vaccinations, carers, diabetes, dementia etc. Ken felt that this should take place at a venue near to Marymead so that it might be more accessible to patients from that area.

We will be asking for help from Public Health England, Diabetes UK, Dementia UK etc and we are hoping that the CCG will also get involved and help to promote the event, together with local Councils and organisations. This has received a positive response from Mark Edwards (Public Engagement Manager at the CCG).

6. Lister Shuttle Bus

Because of press reports that the ENH NHS Trust are reviewing whether or not to continue to fund the Lister Health Shuttle (which is costing the Trust £160,000 per annum), Graham had been asked to write to Nick Carver to express the PPG's concerns. As yet there has been no response from Mr Carver. The letter was also copied to Stephen McPartland (who responded and said that he was already aware of the issue), to Richard Thake and to Steve Deakin-Davies.

7. Dementia Carers' Support Group

Jan reported that she was pleased with the continuing uptake of the information packs for newly-diagnosed patients. There are now 266 Admiral Nurses in the UK; Hertfordshire has eight of these. Jan has estimated that in Hertfordshire there are 500-600 patients who have been diagnosed with dementia but there may be many more as yet undiagnosed.

8. Pharmacists' Meeting

Graham mentioned that the next meeting between the Practice and local retail pharmacists would be on Wednesday, 21st November. This will include a presentation concerning an NHS-approved app which should facilitate text messaging to patients when prescriptions are ready for collection from pharmacies. Graham asked for PPG members to inform him of any operational problems with local pharmacies so that these could be raised at the meeting.

9. PPG Activities

Coffee Mornings: Mandy confirmed that these were continuing at both surgeries; the next one will be at Knebworth on 29th October, then Marymead on 12th November and Knebworth again on 10th December. Additional helpers are usually needed for these events.

Health Walks: Joy reported that up to thirty patients are now joining our Health Walks which are held every other Tuesday morning from the Knebworth Recreation Ground.

10. Invitation

PPG members have been invited by the CCG to a pre-Christmas social event. Details of this were on the Agenda for this PPG Meeting.

Agenda items concerning possible speakers and topics for the 2019 Help Yourself to Health Meeting and suggestions for the next newsletter were both deferred due to lack of time.

11. 2019 PPG Meetings

The proposed dates are listed on the Agenda.

12. Any Other Business

- a) Jan demonstrated the “Save a Life” capsule which is essentially a keyring with a small cylinder into which an important small personal item may be inserted. These cost £3.00 each and are available from Welwyn Rotary.
- b) Dave Bartlett drew attention to an online BBC News item dated 18th October concerning our local CCG which was ranked 188 out of 195 areas. The East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust missed three out of four targets: A&E waits less than four hours, Cancer care within 62 days and Mental health therapy within six weeks. No data were given for Planned ops & care within 18 weeks.

The Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

The next PPG Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th November at Marymead at 7.00 pm. All patients are welcome to attend.

PPG Meetings for 2018

	Full PPG Tuesdays 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm	
November	20	MM
December	18	K

