

## MINUTES FROM PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

### Attendees:

From the Practice:

- Carol McAndrew
- Mandy Weale
- Dr Vino Ganespathy

Patients:

- Jacqueline Evans
- Helen Vickrage
- Barbara Bown
- Kenneth Leedham
- Terence Blakely
- Catherine Hughes
- Barbara Hargreaves
- Robert Hargreaves

Apologies:

Neena Dogra - CCG

Speakers:

- Pamela Walker from Contact the Elderly

Minutes from last meeting were approved and signed off.

**Combating loneliness in older people** - Pamela Walker attended to talk about Contact the Elderly, a national organisation which changes the lives of people aged 75 and over who live alone and cannot get out on their own. We watched a short video on how Contact the Elderly offers a lifeline of friendship to thousands of people aged 75 and over. So far the scheme has shown an improvement in – 38% of patients found their health had improved and 25% fewer patients attended their GP surgeries.

The PPG members would like to run with this scheme under the guidance of Pamela. Carol will speak to GPs to see if they can find patients who they think would benefit from this and we decided to meet at the surgery on a monthly basis if we can recruit enough patients.

The team will be made up as follows: Co-ordinators: Helen, Jackie and Barbara B. Drivers will be Carol, Mandy and Barbara H. Volunteers will be Ken and Catherine. Carol will email Pamela to swap contact details and sort out DBS checks and posters for the waiting rooms.

**Minor Ailments Scheme** – Neena from the CCG apologised she could not attend this meeting but will attend the next one in September.

**Federations and Surgeries merging** - Dr Vino spoke about GP network and Federations. An increasing number of GP practices are considering entering into some kind of collaborative arrangement with other practices. The aim is to share costs and resources. We discussed the benefits: better access, services closer to home, local GPs experience of delivering high quality primary care services, opportunity to build a more extensive community team. Disadvantages: loss of autonomy, risk of small group of partners and large numbers of salaried GPs, existing patient/doctor relationship.

The idea of federations was not popular with PPG members, it was felt it would be more suitable for the younger patients who do not have a Doctor/Patient relationship and are used to this service. It is the elder population who will find these changes difficult.

**Chair: Kenneth Leedham**

**Secretary: Jacqueline Evans**

**NEXT PPG MEETING ARRANGED FOR TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 AT 6.30pm**