

Kintbury & Woolton Hill Patient Participation Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd August 2022

7.00pm at Kintbury Surgery

Present Peter Mason (Chair), Gavin Smith, Sarah Garland, Gillian Guy

Apologies: Rosemary Cahill, Dr Heather Howells, Jan Wells

Welcome Peter Mason welcomed everyone and opened the meeting

- 1. Minutes of meeting held on 10th May 2022 - PM** raised a procedural matter concerning updated information that had been included in the May minutes. It was accepted that although the additional information was included with the intention of keeping patients up to date, it should not have been included in the minutes. The minutes should only include records of what was discussed at the time the meeting took place.
- 2. Matters arising - Kintbury car park barrier – GS** reported that the installation of the car park barrier had been widely advertised locally as had the reasons for its installation. The barrier was due to be left in the locked position for the first time on the evening of Friday 5th August. However, if a vehicle were still in the car park on 5th Aug, that vehicle would not be locked in, but a message would be left for the driver advising that in future the car park would be locked over the weekend.
- 3. Covid Report GS** reported that the latest figures for the locality showed a sharp decline in infections. No Covid cases recorded in the Practice population over the last few weeks had resulted in a patient being admitted to hospital. **GS** advised that the decline in reported cases was likely, to a great extent, to be due to the removal of free testing. The NHS expect numbers to rise during the Autumn when the schools go back and throughout the winter when people are mixing more indoors. The Practice has reintroduced the wearing of face masks for patients visiting the surgery in an attempt to keep infection rates down.
- 4. Covid booster and other vaccinations – GS** was able to confirm that the Practice will once again make use of the sports hall at Thorngrove school for the flu vaccination programme. All members agreed that using Thorngrove had been a great success and had resolved the serious traffic problems caused in previous years when the vaccinations were undertaken at the 2 surgery sites. The Practice will provide catch up vaccination sessions at both surgeries for patient's that are either unable to travel to Thorngrove, or unable to attend on the dates of the Thorngrove sessions. **GS** reported that the current flu season in Australia had been much worse than for previous years and a similar pattern could arise in the UK and as such, the NHS is encouraging everyone who is entitled to the flu jab to take up that offer.
SG asked whether the Autumn Covid boosters would be delivered from Thorngrove along with the flu jab. **GS** responded that unfortunately this would not be the case and that the Covid booster programme would be delivered from National Covid vaccination sites. The requirement to keep patients on site for monitoring after having their Covid booster would present logistical problems for the Practice and would impact on the number of patients that could be seen during flu vaccination clinics. **GS** was able to confirm that plans were being made for care home residents and immunosuppressed patients to receive their boosters from Practice clinicians and District Nurses and these groups would not be expected to travel to the National vaccination centres.
- 5. Staff update GS** reported that both Dr Amy Crofts and Dr Philip Warrilow-Wilson had now started work with the Practice and had settled in well. With their recruitment the Practice was in the very fortunate position of having a full complement of Drs. Dr Laurence Chacksfield will be joining the Practice in early August. Dr Chacksfield is a Registrar and is in his final year of GP training. Dr Gurung has now left the Practice after successfully passing her final exams. The Practice has managed to recruit a new clinical Pharmacist who is expected to take up her post in January. Interviews are also about to take place to recruit a Pharmacy Technician. Sarah Hennessy has been recruited to the Practice Administration team and Audrey Whittaker has joined the reception team at Woolton Hill. Adverts to recruit a new receptionist at Kintbury are still open.
- 6. Housing Developments PM** confirmed that West Berks Council has objected to the **Watermill Bridge** planning application on a number of grounds, mainly to do with the increased pressure that such a large development would have on amenities in Newbury especially in light of the planning application for housing at Sandford being approved.

- 7. Patient Survey** The final version of the proposed survey and associated information leaflet were approved by the group. **GS** advised that the questionnaire would be available in paper form at both surgeries and that the Practice was looking to see if electronic versions of the survey could be sent out to patients. The Practice would look to advertise the survey on its website and on its Facebook page. **SG** agreed to advertise the survey on the local village website. The Practice would be looking to send out survey forms in the next week or so and would be looking at a closing date for replies towards the end of Sept. **GG** asked why there was a need for the survey. **GS** explained that the survey was particularly important for the Practice as the Practice is seeking to establish whether a lot of the technological changes brought about by Covid have been of benefit to patients. The Practice also needs to consider the long term needs and demands of an expanding patient population. **GS** explained that it would be difficult to envisage how existing premises could be further expanded to deal with increased numbers of patients and the requirement to provide a wider range of services from Practice premises. **PM** raised concerns that if, at any stage, the Practice had to find new premises then it was important that those premises continued to own the premises rather than rent them from a developer as had been the case elsewhere. **GS** explained that the ownership of Practice premises would continue to be an important factor for the Partners when considering any options.
- 8. Patient Panel** **PM** reported that he had not seen minutes from the last Patient Panel meeting. **GS** to check with RC to see if those minutes are available for circulation.

9. Members' Reports

SG asked whether it was possible for patients to be issued with more than 1 month's medication at a time. **GS** advised that with the exception of HRT medications, NHS policy is to issue one month at a time. This was to avoid waste when medications and/or doses of medications are changed. At present, there are regular problems obtaining supplies of a number of medications and issuing several months of medication at a time could worsen the situation. Patients are still able to order more than one month's worth of medication at a time if they are going away on holiday.

GS reported that the Practice has just come out in the latest GP Patient Survey as the top practice in Berkshire for the overall Patient experience.

GS – The Practice has been able to secure an extra Physio appointment session each week with Dr Aluko. The extra session will be held at Woolton Hill on Wednesday mornings

PM followed up on the issue raised at the last meeting of a patient being referred to orthopaedic clinic having to wait 6-7 weeks due to an error in referral. The patient has now been advised that the wait to be seen will be much longer. **GS** advised that unfortunately waiting times for Hospital appointments are still much longer than before Covid. **GS** will follow this up with Dr Howells

- 10. Date of next meeting** **1st or 8th Nov at Woolton Hill Surgery**