

Abbey Medical Centre Patient Participation Group minutes for Thursday, November 3, 2016 at 1 pm

Present: Sue McNab, Debs Smith, Jean Yarnell, Jean Reid, Thelma Hembury

Apologies for absence: Richard Heppell, Christine Tyldesley, Gerry Coppell, Joy Stevenson and Chris Barnatt. Debs reported that the practice doctors were all attending a training event.

It was agreed that the meeting would be chaired by Debs.

Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed

Matters arising: Re a new website, Debs said the area practice managers were trying to work together to save money by group purchasing of such things as stationery and were also trying to decide on a new website, possibly Mysurgery. She will keep us informed.

Golden Years: The posters produced by Sue had been put up and Debs had contacted the people who had previously attended and had 15 definite replies. The programme was agreed and Jean Y, Sue and Richard would bake.

Fund-raising coffee morning: Debs said £370 had been raised for the Breast Cancer Awareness Think Pink appeal and thanked everyone who had helped and contributed.

Patient Reference Group networking event for PPGs in South Nottinghamshire: Jean Yarnell and Sue McNab attended this morning event at the Trent Vineyard centre in Lenton and Jean presented a report from the session. Both she and Sue thought it was worthwhile meeting other PPG members who all had similar concerns re how to encourage younger members and people with disabilities. Jean felt the Abbey benefited from being a smaller practice, making it easier to make it friendly and welcoming to patients. We also realised that not all PPGs have the good input from surgery staff and doctors that we have, though some had more help with the clerical side of things and the newsletter. Jean has made it her mission to try and recruit one new member to the PPG and Sue wants us to think about reaching out into schools to attract young people. This is something we will discuss at a future meeting. A poster with pictures about our PPG had been designed by Sue and was on show with others at the networking event. It is now in our surgery.

Patient reference group report: Sue said there had been a very good presentation about a new Notts County Council free website called Help Yourself, giving help and advice on many issues, ranging from child care to housing needs and help for the elderly. It is found online at www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/home.page and is well worth a look.

Any other business: Richard Hepple asked Sue to give information he had been asked for by a patient regarding the use of pork gelatine as a stabiliser in vaccinations. He said Jewish leaders accepted it but Muslim leaders varied in their advice. The only vaccines containing pork gelatine in the UK routine vaccination schedule are the MMR vaccine, for which there is an alternative vaccine, and the shingles vaccine for adults and the children's nasal flu vaccine, neither of which has an alternative one dose vaccine. There have been a small number of allergic reactions to vaccines containing gelatine, so people with a known allergy to gelatine are advised to consult their doctor before receiving a vaccine that contains it.

Debs said the idea of offering a virtual patient group for people who could not attend meetings would have to wait until a new website is set up and would also need looking into regarding control. It may be an idea for Sue to ask PRG colleagues to come and talk about their experiences with virtual PPGs.

Thelma reported on attempts to close our PPG Golden Years account with the RBS now that the grant money has been spent and how difficult it had been. She had also appealed for a return of the bank charges levied but had been told that could only happen if it was a registered charity. Sue and Debs both said we now know that the money could have been paid into the practice account though this was unclear at the time. Thelma and Christine Tyldesley, who were joint treasurers, were thanked for their work.

Date of next meetings: Wednesday, January 18, 6.30pm, which will be the annual general meeting, and Thursday, March 16, at 1pm.