

Haughton Thornley Medical Centres
Patient Participation Group
Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd March 2021
via Zoom

Present: Cathy Dobson, Dominic Sexton, Ingrid Brindle, Eric Bynon, Amir Hannan, Deb Smith, Olive Harper, Yvonne Bennett, Mark Hindle, Kath Mills, Richard Williams, Tracy Turley, Paul Welsh, David Hill, Lauren (student), Lisa Gutteridge

Apologies: Kate Bradley, Roger Paul, Mark Hindle

1. Ingrid opened the meeting with introductions all round.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
3. Matters arising.

Ingrid brought up the discussion at the last meeting about Evergreen Life and the usefulness of an alert if new information is added to a record, which is now being trialled.

Clarification on the amount of vitamin D that people should take if they buy it themselves. The required amount is unclear. PHE recommend 400 to 800 units but many people think it should be more.

4. Practice Matters.
 - a. Lauren (med student) has been working with Dr Hannan for four weeks. She is interested in clinical genetics – the kind of testing that might take place at St Mary's Hospital – and has put together an information sheet to explain what genetic testing is, why it is done, and what it entails. This is available on the practice website and includes links to charities and other sources of information. Dr G pointed out that this could be shared with all local practices. This topic led to a discussion about various different genetic conditions.
 - b. Covid vaccination programme – still going well. Over 50s are now being invited to attend.

All LD patients have been invited to have their first jab.

The practice is dealing with people who are anxious about the vaccination, and are providing information and encouragement. There are still a lot of people who don't want to be vaccinated. This includes care home workers.

Second vaccinations will also be starting next week, with care home residents initially.

The programme is very well organised and IT issues have now been ironed out. There are paper records so people will not be missed for the second jab even if the first one is not showing up on the computer.

People who believe they have been missed and should have been called because of age or vulnerability, or who should have had a home visit, should contact their surgery.

Dr Hannan has been working with the local Bangladeshi community, who have a lower take-up of vaccinations than others.

- c. Deb talked about Tameside Community Champions who, among other things, are providing information about the vaccination programme within the community, a role that requires people to be up to date with the latest information. Anyone can sign up but there is a need for BAME representatives.

Ingrid suggested linking with Diversity Matters – Dominic to invite Rehana to the next PPG meeting.

It is hoped that messages encouraging people to be vaccinated will be more likely to be effective if they don't come from authority figures.

Tracy reported that this is seen as an example of best practice across Greater Manchester.

To get involved sign up via the link on the council website.

There was a discussion about the wider role of champions (not just relating to covid), how, and if, the practice can contact all patients about it, and how champions can feed back so that the information does not just flow in one direction.

5. Update from Tracy, who talked about public engagement and the Partnership Engagement Network. Local people can be involved in the development of strategic and operational approaches to a variety of issues facing the local area, such as covid, census, equalities, etc.

As many people as possible should become involved.

Dominic will send the link to PPG members.

6. Dave Hill talked about his idea to bring together people like himself to support each other through regular meetings to lose weight.

Ingrid reported that Mark Hindle is happy to help with getting this off the ground and supporting it.

There are other local organisations that might be worth linking up with, such as Slimmin' Without Women (<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oldham/our-services/leisure-and-social-activities/slimmin-without-women/>)

Dr Gutteridge is keen to start getting patients involved in the programme!

7. AOB

Dr Hannan reported that other rooms in the practice are being opened so that it's easier to see more patients.

However, people with covid symptoms must still stay away.

8. Next meeting will be in about two months – date to follow.