

One Ellesmere Port PCN Patient Champions Meeting Notes
Thursday 20th June 2024
1:00 – 2:00pm



Location: Hope Farm Methodist Church

Present	
Emily Morton	PCN Co-Clinical Director
Rhys Lewis	PCN Co-Clinical Director
Sam Minshall	PCN Executive Administrator
Katie Ainsworth	PCN Team Care Coordinator
Emily Lightfoot	PCN Lead Social Prescriber
Chloe Sutton	PCN Social Prescriber
Jean Wilde	Patient Champion - Great Sutton Medical Centre
Julie Rees	Patient Champion – Great Sutton Medical Centre
Margaret Caldwell	Patient Champion – Whitby Health Partnership
Joan Roberts	Patient Champion – Whitby Health Partnership
Susan Kettle	Patient Champion - Hope Farm Medical Centre
Tom Foxall	Patient Champion - Hope Farm Medical Centre
Peter Butters	Patient Champion – Old Hall Surgery
Anne Thompson	Patient Champion - Westminster Surgery

Apologies	
Charlotte Wynne	PCN Manager
Joy Edge	Patient Champion - Great Sutton Medical Centre
Deborah Morris	Patient Champion - Great Sutton Medical Centre
Michael Perkins	Patient Champion – Whitby Health Partnership
Mary McOnie	Patient Champion – Whitby Health Partnership
George Foster	Patient Champion – Whitby Health Partnership
Mary McOnie	Patient Champion – Whitby Health Partnership
Marion Barnett	Patient Champion - Hope Farm Medical Centre
Kenneth Salter	Patient Champion - Hope Farm Medical Centre
Thomas Foxall	Patient Champion - Hope Farm Medical Centre
Gordon Trigg	Patient Champion – York Road Group Practice
Gloria Bonner	Patient Champion - Old Hall Surgery
Kenneth Spain	Patient Champion - Westminster Surgery
Helen Thompson	Patient Champion – Westminster Surgery
Colin Rhodes	Patient Champion - Westminster Surgery

1: Welcome & Introductions	
The PCN Leadership team introduced themselves, and thanked everyone for attending:	
Emily Morton	Co-Clinical Director
Rhys Lewis	Co-Clinical Director
Sam Minshall	PCN Executive Administrator
Katie Ainsworth	PCN Team Care Coordinator
Emily Lightfoot	Social Prescribing Coordinator
Chloe Sutton	Social Prescriber

2: Updates

Additional Role Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) is a fund that practices receive to hire additional roles to core practices. Currently the funding has plateaued which has resulted in a few cuts in services. This includes the Dietitians which has been reduced by a few hours, as well as the First Contact Physiotherapists (FCPs).

Stanney Lane clinics is still under the Ellesmere Port Council compulsory order. The Levelling Up Fund on the Council website states the buildings are empty, but they are being used by healthcare services.

Below is the link to the Ellesmere Port Council website:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/business/shared-prosperity-fund/levelling-up-fund/transforming-ellesmere-port-town-centre>

Below is the section from the website:

'The proposals also include plans to unlock development of new homes in two sites at Civic Offices and at the junction of McGarva Way and Coronation Road. The aim will be to demolish empty or redundant buildings and then work with developers to build new first-time buyer or family homes.'

It was suggested a letter could be made with signage from all the Patient Champions, expressing concern for the lack of healthcare estates in the town centre.

Great Sutton Medical Centre new building is still under construction. We estimate there maybe delays. It was questioned whether many services could base themselves there, but complications do arise regarding rent and patient access to the location on the outskirts of town.

It was discussed whether the phlebotomy service could be brought back to practices, but there is no space which is the reason why the service was based at Stanney Lane. Worst case scenario the phlebotomy service will be moved to the Countess of Chester Hospital, but we know many patients are unable to travel there.

3: PCN Social Prescribers

Healthbox host the social prescribing roles, but it is funded by the PCN ARRS role scheme.

They support with housing, employment, finances, loneliness and much more. It allows extra time for the patients as the referrals are passed on from the GP. Patients have multiple appointments and review their improvement throughout.

The social prescribers organise community engagement meetings once a month, to learn about other third sector groups and charities.

Due to COVID many community services dissolved, however we are now recovering and learning about more community groups. Also, the upcoming general election will impact certain groups again, so we will continue to monitor this.

The PCN have also employed two Mental Health Link Workers to support patients with mental health problems.

Recently we have employed a Health and Wellbeing Coach, who supports with health-related goals.

Due to the support from a fundraising event by Whitby Health Partnership, we have been able to organise counselling for children not attending school.

The Childrens Wellbeing Hub has been updated to include low risk support, as well as high risk Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) referrals.

Key target to support children is the adult parents. We plan to investigate more groups who support parents in the local area. KOALA charity is also supporting more patients.

Healthbox are currently developing relationship workshops. They hope to have them ready in the next few months.

A query was raised regarding whether nutrition is helpful for mental health. Emily Lightfoot confirmed this as she has a background as a nutritionist.

4: COVID Vaccinations

The Spring Booster vaccination program has finished for the PCN. However, if anyone still wants a COVID vaccine (who is eligible) they can go the pharmacy before the 30th June.

The Flu and COVID Autumn vaccination programme will be starting on Thursday 3rd October. The clinics will be held at the Civic Hall during weekdays, and we will be having Saturday clinics, the venue is yet to be confirmed.

All clinics will be walk-ins, no appointment needed.

The group were informed that NHS England communications to patients around the vaccination programs do not list NHS vaccination clinics, only pharmacies.

An issue was raised regarding vaccines offered during the programmes. For example, if a patient has a reaction to one, it can be hard to get an alternative.

A query was raised regarding blood clots related to COVID vaccines. It was confirmed it was Astra Zeneca and that vaccine is no longer in production. They are currently working on a joint Flu and Covid vaccine, but this will not be ready for next season.

4: AOB

Regarding prescriptions from chemists, patients have been asked to sign a petition to get more funds for the pharmacies. Currently they blame that work is being passed on from Primary Care. However, there is more to this issue, as pharmacies have been set up for a programme called 'Pharmacy First', which allows them to do more such as insect bites, shingles, UTIs and more. The pharmacies are receiving more funds to complete these tasks.

Below is a link to the NHSE Pharmacy First description website:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first/>