

One Ellesmere Port PCN Patient Champions Meeting Notes

Thursday 24th October 2024

3:00 – 4:00pm

Location: Hope Farm Methodist Church, Hope Farm Road, CH66 2LF



Present

Dr Emily Morton	Co-Clinical Director
Sam Minshall	PCN Executive Administrator
Katie Ainsworth	PCN Team Care Coordinator
Tom Hutchison	Hope Farm Medical Centre – Care Coordinator
Jean Wilde	Patient Champion - Great Sutton Medical Centre
Peter Butters	Patient Champion – Old Hall Surgery
Michael Perkins	Patient Champion – Whitby Health Partnership
Kenneth Spain	Patient Champion - Westminster Surgery
Mary McOnie	Patient Champion – Whitby Health Partnership

Apologies

Dr Rhys Lewis	Co-Clinical Director
Charlotte Wynne	PCN Manager
Colin Rhodes	Patient Champion - Westminster Surgery
Gordon Trigg	Patient Champion – York Road Group Practice
Helen Thompson	Patient Champion – Westminster Surgery
Gloria Bonner	Patient Champion - Old Hall Surgery
Marion Barnett	Patient Champion - Hope Farm Medical Centre
Julie Rees	Patient Champion – Great Sutton Medical Centre

1: Welcome & Introductions

For this meeting there were slightly less available attendees. We learned that many sent their apologies due to the school collection times. We discussed the timing of the meetings, and again proposed whether we try a late morning meeting and see if that works better.

2: PCN Updates

Emily Morton gave an overview of the PCN, and the practices involved.

There are no recent updates, expect for the vaccination programme which was an agenda item.

3: PCN Vaccination Program

Katie Ainsworth gave an overview of the current PCN vaccination clinics taking place in the Ellesmere Port town centre. We have a few more clinics planned in the next few weeks, and we plan to review the remaining eligible patients and do some pop-up clinics.

95% of patients who attended the clinics co-administered both Flu and COVID.

We also ran an RSV programme in September. We only had 8 weeks' notice from NHSE to run it, but it still ran successfully. It was queried why patients only aged 75-80 years old were eligible. Katie answered that NHSE statistics show that patients aged 75-80 are most likely to end up in hospital if they got RSV. Also, each vaccine cost £158 pounds, so NHSE may have planned to

target a small proportion of the population. Overall, the uptake was good, with over 1500 patients (50% of the eligible population) attending the clinics.

It was asked if RSV can be given privately to patients over 80 years old, this is currently not allowed.

It was queried if Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) have increased since COVID vaccines began. We are aware of the Astra Zeneca issue which happened during the pandemic, but that vaccine is no longer available as it was withdrawn in 2021. Although this only affected a potential 2% of patients who were vaccinated with it. There is no other evidence to suggest any increase in DVT from the vaccines.

Relating to the previous discussion, it was queried why patients are asked about blood thinners before the vaccine. This is simply because the clinician will apply extra pressure to prevent a bruise or bleeding to patients on blood thinning medication.

4: PCN Care Coordinators

The Care Coordinator role is relatively new to Primary Care, but a growing role. The role of the Care Coordinator is to support the most vulnerable groups in society for example palliative patients, newly diagnosed with cancer, patients with learning disabilities, dementia diagnosis, care home and housebound patients. They are central to MDT meetings and pivotal in joining the dots in patients care. They look after the patient, not the condition.

We have 11 Care Coordinators across our PCN.

Tom Hutchinson attended and gave an overview of his role. Being a conduit between the patient, clinician and other services. For example, any care home management comes through Tom makes sure patients receive the best care.

They also help with educational material for patients, as well as supporting practice PPG groups.

We value these roles in Primary Care, especially as the size and structure of the NHS has grown in recent years.

It was queried if the GP Assistants (GPAs) are a similar role, but they are not. Instead, they focus on more clinical actions such as urgent blood tests or check urgent letters and referrals to support the GPs.

5: AOB

A recent BBC website review had a table of GP capacity to number of patients. It was queried whether we have enough capacity available in Ellesmere Port, especially when the population is deprived or elderly. The gold standard ratio used to be 1 Work Time Equivalent (WTE) GP per 1500 patients.

It was raised what plans we had for the Winter Fuel Allowance changes, and if we had made any preparations for patient needs. The PCN Community Partnership is looking to make timetables for friendship cafes and other warm hubs. Tom Hutchinson mentioned Age UK can help find funding if patients are eligible.

We mentioned the 'Let's Talk' service at the Trinity Church on a Thursday. It is Council run and they might be able to advise patients.