**Minutes of the Patient Participation Group held at Wawn Street Surgery on**

**1st May 2018 at 6pm.**

1. Chair welcomed 3 members and Dr Gill from the surgery.

1. Apologies were given for two members. (Chair to ask Deputy Practice Manager to forward any apologies to the Chair prior to the meeting)
2. There were no new members to be welcomed.
3. The minutes of the 6th March meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
4. There were two matters arising from the previous minutes: new members need to be recruited for the PPG and it was agreed that patients in the 18 to 40 age group should be targeted; there was discussion over the relevance of the new GPDR regulations to the PPG.
5. Reports
6. Surgery

Dr Gill reported that land adjacent to the surgery, previously used as a staff and patient car-park, had been purchased from South Tyneside Council by an individual. Parking was no longer available on this area of land, which is fenced off, but there was parking available nearby on other council-owned land. There was a brief discussion about this development. A new GP, Dr Natalie Hughes, had started on the 1st May and, hopefully, a further GP would start in January 2019. Dr Bhalla’s retirement party was to be held on the 4th June at 1.30pm. The practice-based pharmacist was now active in reviewing individual patient medications. The new nurse, Zoe, had now started work in the practice. Dr Gill was now working on Thursday and Friday of each week – PPG meetings would now need to be held on Thursday evenings. The surgery was now involved in a COPD pilot project and in a pre-diabetes project (5.5% of practice patients were said to be diabetic). A member mentioned that diabetes appeared to be increasing world-wide. Following further discussion Dr Gill explained that BMI varies according to ethnic grouping. It was likely that NICE would approve the use of low dose CT scanning for patients at risk of lung cancer associated with COPD. The practice would be waiting for ethical approval.

1. Members

A member tabled the minutes of the 5th April, 2018, meeting of the Patient Reference Group. The Chair gave information related to the British Lung Foundation. Information from the Deputy Practice Manager relating to the ‘Path to Excellence Transformation’ was tabled.

1. Open discussion.

Dr Gill withdrew from this section of the meeting to allow members to openly discuss the function and membership of the PPG. It was agreed by those members present that ‘support’ and ‘challenge’ were key words in identifying the function of the Patient Participation Group. Being ‘supportive’ was considered to be particularly important at a time when there were considerable demands on the NHS and specifically on GP practices and individual practitioners. Nevertheless ‘challenge’ was considered important given the complex nature of general practice and the service given to a large number of patients. Discussion centred around examples where the PPG had attempted to be ‘supportive’ and where effective ‘challenge’ had been established. The private (partnership) nature of GP surgeries within a publicly funded, but politically driven, NHS was briefly discussed. Many PPG members considered their own involvement as a civic responsibility. All members very much appreciated the open and transparent way in which Dr Gill, representing the surgery, related and responded to the PPG. It was agreed that the PPG needed to recruit some new members.

1. Questions / comments from members: none.
2. AOB: the Chair tabled a letter from Gerry Fionda, a participant in the Patient Reference Group, seeking more ‘cohesion’ across PPGs in South Tyneside. After discussion it was agreed that the secretary would contact him stating that we would wish to support his initiative.
3. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 6th September 2018.

This meeting closed at 7.25pm.