

Patient Participation Group Notes taken from the 14th September 2017

Present: Geoffrey Coulthard (Chair), Jeffrey Smith, Joan Smith, Brenda Cope, Joan Pemberton, David Atwood & Veronica Oura
Practice representative: Sheila Whiteoak, Lauren Kendall (Minutes)

Apologies

No apologies were received for this meeting

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 29th June 2017, having been previously circulated were read and approved

Matters arising

Ultrasound Service

Lauren Kendall the Sonographer Assistant was present to summarise the service. Discussed locations of the clinics available, currently running at Darwen Health Centre on Monday, St Georges on Tuesday, Montague on Wednesday and Roe Lee on Thursday and Friday. Patients need a referral from their GP to receive a scan appointment. Patients are reassured that the same level of care in this service is the same at the hospital as we are working with the same sonographers and consultant radiologists as work at the hospital.

Practice Merger

Date of the official decision on merger by NHS England and CCG on Tuesday 19 September 2017, computers to merge on 16th October.

We discussed the number of doctors and the forthcoming retirement of Dr Harrington, pending retirement of Drs Marlborough and Timson. The practice intends to employ another nurse practitioner however the current staffing at Roe Lee will not change drastically. In regards to booking appointments patients might find if they ring for an appointment to see Dr Timson, he might be working over at Montague however patients will have the opportunity to be seen there. There is quite a lot of administration work for both Sheila and the Manager from Montague, Ann, as all the Montague staff have to be TUPE'd over to Roe Lee. A decision is yet to be made of how the two Patient Participation Groups will work going forward but for the time being they will be kept running separately.

Patients will be informed by NHSE in writing of the merger.

Agenda Items

There were no items brought to this meeting by the members

Any Other Business

A member of the group asked why appointments to see the nurses are not available by booking online and patients need to ring/visit the surgery to make an appointment for them. This is because the nurses carry out different duties that require different length of appointments and they do not all do the same role. For example, we do not want patients booking in for the HCA for a smear or patients booking in for a single appointment when the procedure they need requires a double appointment.

Date and time of next Meeting

Thursday 11th January 2018 at 1pm