

facilities, a fracture clinic run by an Orthopaedic Consultant and a consultant led ENT clinic. A number of other of other diagnostic and treatment services are provided including cataract surgery, minor surgical procedures, ultrasound, audiology, physiotherapy, DVT management – and many more. Dr Ribchester acknowledged and thanked the Friends who helped fund equipment which enabled services and clinics to be provided locally.

Since April 2013 the Canterbury & Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group became responsible for commissioning health services in the area and one of their main aims is to try and get more and more clinicians involved in the management of health services.

Questions & Answers

Speakers answered many questions following each presentation and audience members had the opportunity to also ask more general questions which included:

Question: What do you think to the press stating that with more clinicians being involved with management there is less time for them to focus on their core business i.e. seeing patients.

Reply: Dr Ribchester said that to a certain extent this is true – and gave the example of his own role as a member of 13 different committees. He said that there is talk of CCGs needing more GPs to handle this and that it is a very time consuming process. It was also explained that around an extra 4000 GPs would be needed to cope with demand nationwide.

Question: Is there a choice offered to where each of the services are commissioned from?

Reply: Dr Ribchester replied that there is often a choice but there is also a fixed NHS tariff therefore savings cannot be made on these services.

Other comments from the audience included:

- It was felt that people have bigger expectations now of healthcare
- Estuary View Medical Centre was often heard mentioned favourably in connection with services offered

About the Patient Participation Group

It was pointed out that not all practices had established a Patient Participation Group but Whitstable Medical Practice has been running theirs for 11 years now. Interest in the group had grown considerably so there is now a “virtual” group alongside a committee of members representing the three sites who attend regular meetings. News and information about Practice developments is available to virtual members who are also encouraged to contribute their views and comments. The Patient Participation Group is open to all patients of Whitstable Medical Practice and any patient interested in becoming involved is encouraged to fill out an application form. A summary of all the meetings held is listed on the Practice website.

Closing the meeting, Marian and Carolyn thanked the guest speakers for their presentation and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

If you would like further information please contact
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