

**PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)
COURT THORN SURGERY (CTS)**

Minutes of meeting held on 16th January 2019.

Present

Tony Lainsbury (Chairman), Sally Hardcastle, Jennie Sutton, Catherine Robinson, Rachael Somerville, Joyce Ousby, John Poland.

Apologies

Vikki Sant, Margaret Riches, Sally Budd, Ken Sutton.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Matters arising

None.

Practice update

Dr Grainger was present for this item, and commented on the following:-

Brexit and medication supplies - NHS England was saying that there was no need to stockpile medication, the practice would not get further supplies if they asked for them.

Kim (dispensary) had left late 2018. In her place the practice would be employing a Clinical Pharmacist (Graham), who would be a great asset.

A living Well Coach, Ann Blakeley, would be working in the practice for two days a week, under an initiative to promote health and wellbeing particularly involving patients in isolated rural areas.

The next CQC inspection was expected in 2019.

Charity Status

Tony reminded everyone that at the last meeting, it had been agreed that a vote would be taken this time round on the proposal for the group to apply for Charity status. Jennie had re-issued guidelines and model constitution for everyone to consider. Tony added that, in sending out the agenda for the meeting, he had invited members who could not attend to let him know their views. He had received 3 replies all in support.

From the discussion that followed, there was general acceptance that becoming a charity would bring benefits to the PPG in terms of its ability to raise funds, and a move towards a more professional standard. However, all members needed to understand that they would become Trustees, although personal liability (if it existed at all) would be limited to about £1. Concern was expressed that not everyone would necessarily be happy with this and that new members should be recruited so that any additional requirements brought about by becoming a Charity could be dealt with.

John said that whilst he supported the idea of becoming a Charity, in his experience there would be a good deal of preparatory work needed before making application to the Charity Commission. He suggested that a 12 month "run in" would give sufficient time for this.

Consequently the following was agreed:-

- all members to be asked to confirm that they were happy to become Trustees;
- Jennie to contact Mark Costello at CVS to seek his help;
- contact to be made with those people who had responded to the recent questionnaire indicating interest in joining the group.

Questionnaire for patients

The questionnaires had been widely distributed to patients and 42 replies received, a very encouraging result. As well as suggestions for future events, there were several potential new members for the group, and offers of other help.

The first priority was to follow up these responses and Jennie and Tony agreed to do this. Potential new group members would be invited to the next meeting and possibly a coffee morning before then.

Practice 3 year plan

Rachael stated that the last 3 year plan covered 2015 to 2018, and had been drawn up by the PPG in consultation with the practice. John asked Rachael if she could update the old plan in draft form and then contact him.

Any other business

Rachael stated that Nichola Wiggett had been appointed as her deputy. Everyone recognised the valuable support Nichola provided to the PPG and asked that their congratulations be passed on to her.

Next meetings:

Wednesday 20th February - coffee morning for potential PPG members and volunteers;

Wednesday 6th March - PPG;

Thursday 21st March - seminar, speaker(s) from Police /Fire and Rescue service;

Wednesday 8th May - PPG;

Thursday 20th June - seminar, content to be agreed;

Thursday 26th September - seminar, content to be agreed.

