**Caversham Group Practice**

**Minutes of Patient Group Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd July 2015, 11:00 – 12:30**

**Present**

Representing Caversham Group Practice: Dr Stephen Amiel (SA), Sheetal Shah (SS), Fay Saunders (FS), Eddie Davison (ED), Ninra Nersey (NN)

Chairperson: Roderick Allison (RA)

Speaker from Camden Carers Centre: Suzi Chung & Caroline Allouf

Social Worker – Karl Gill (KG)

Care Navigator – Ayesha Ikram (AI)

For confidentiality purposes, names of patient attendees are omitted from the version of these minutes uploaded to public websites. Copies of minutes are distributed to the PPG mailing list.

RA opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending and introduced himself

and apologized on behalf of joint chair JW.

Social Worker – KG spoke to patients about services offered by social workers in Camden. Patients can be referred via GP. KG and his team offer support patients by visiting them and liaising with other agencies if required. They are based at Caversham Group Practice.

They would only be visiting patients living in Camden. If patients are living in Islington but registered with Camden GP, then they would not be able to see these patients but would be able to refer them to Islington services.

Care Navigator – Care Navigation service is a pilot for 2 years for all 60 years and over patients who are frail and pre-frail. They are linked with social worker and offer patients support with attending hospital appointments, understand benefits, arrange hospital transport and any other support they would need. They are funded by Better Care Fund charity and independent to Camden Council.

As per CCG criteria they can only accept referrals from Camden patients via GP. Islington patients are signposted to AgeUK.

**Camden Carers Service**

CA gave an outline on Camden Carers Services based in Kentish Town. They offer services to families and informal carers. Their services cover wide remit borough wise i.e. people who study, live or work in the borough.

Their team has family support carers with expertise in certain areas like mental health and learning difficulty. Their workers based in Royal Free and St Pancras hospital support people by liaising with hospital staff. Discharge and getting back into community care. They offer informal advocacy services, work with social workers. They have a Support Information Line Monday-Friday 9-5pm (on Wednesdays till 7pm). Some other services include:

* Counselling service
* Training/courses specific with needs of carers like Mental Health & Dementia
* Have good support groups
* Offer Carer health check and health assessment needs
* Qualified nutritionist available
* Regular health walks arranged
* Carer 1:1 personal trainer exercises.

Of the above some projects are funded by CCG organisation under umbrella of Carers Trust. They are also affected by cuts in NHS but funding is secure for next few years. Patient can self-refer. The self-referral form is attached with minutes.

**North Alliance Update – FL**

RA nominated FL for channel of communication for North Alliance. A formal endorsement was sought from the PPG and agreed

North PPG Alliance Representative Group can have 2 representatives per practice. All patients are members of the Alliance. The coordinating group consists of 4 unelected members. This was discussed in the meeting and the PPG voted on coordinating group to be of elected members. FL will give feedback on behalf of PPG.

Camden GP Federation backed by Haverstock Healthcare. GP Federation would be discussed at our next PPG meeting. SS is currently forwarding Federation newsletter to PPG members regularly attending meetings.

**State of General Practices**

JL bought this agenda item as patient care affected. A lot of GP practices are closing as contract gets difficult. He would like to:

* Know what the situation is in Camden
* Report on integration of 111 service and Out of Hours service going ahead with 5 boroughs

SA informed members of pressures locally, squeezes in contractual terms with the aim of no future for small practices. They either merge with big practices or close down. Lists then dispersed among other practices. Some of them might become part of hospital trusts as they can now set up their own GP surgeries.

Few examples of overall state of GP Practices are:

* Practices get reimbursed for rent/mortgage they pay – this is currently being reviewed
* Care Quality commission (CQC) closing down practices
* Recruitment crisis in GPs

JL stressed on campaigning as this is crisis and patients to work together. This could be done by joining **‘KEEP OUR NHS PUBLIC’.**

All members discussed this and felt a meeting should be arranged with both MPs of Camden as it is estimated 1/3rd practices are to be closed in next 5 years in Camden. The Health Scrutiny Committee should also be involved as it very worrying that almost 16m adults could be affected by cuts to Social Services

JL revisited 111 out of hours plans to provide combined coverage across 5 Boroughs- The plans are still going ahead at this time but are going to be reviewed again by the scrutiny committee in September and he will keep us updated with this as things progress.

**CPPEG update - KE**

Expressed thanks to SS for circulating email re how to make voices herd

KE is now an elected member of the CPPEG – Chair and also appointed to commissioning Committee

CCG AGM invite has been sent to all PPG members. Plans are being put in place to facilitate a Camden wide PPG meeting in the future.

Feedback that people want more info on what the CPPEG and CCG are doing. KE informed us that all their reports are published on CCG website and encouraged people to go and have a look if they were interested. Copies of “The Camden Story” were made available in the meeting.

KE highlighted 3 areas of interest that she had taken from the meetings and speaking to people:

1. Frailty Risk Register – Worries around variation of patients on the register between practices and that the list is not changing.
2. Feedback about the practice and how best to give feedback - KE signposted people towards NHS choices
3. How to access information on own health related questions and services.

AOB:

RA proposed meeting in October. Date TBC. It was suggesting that a focus would be on federation and on health watch report.