

# Newbold Surgery Patient Participation Group



**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

## **In Attendance:**

Rachael Carrington (PM), Shandice Finnegan (Senior Practice Nurse), Robert and Marilyn Hay, David Jackman, Sue Deakin, Paul Hetherington, Keith Woolmer, Maggie Woolmer

**Apologies received:** Joe Roberts, Philip Elliot, Sue and Bob Goodwin, Allan Wood, Sue Webb

## **New PPG Members**

The new year welcomed 4 new members to the group Sue Deakin, Paul Hetherington, Keith Woolmer and Maggie Woolmer. Introductions were made and we hope they will all feel happy to join us again on a regular basis. All members were thanked for coming on such a cold and frosty evening. Members were also reminded of confidentiality and governance and asked to sign an updated PPG agreement. Regular members who were not at this evening's meeting will be asked to read and sign the agreement when they next attend.

## **Practice Update**

**Practice Representatives at future meetings** – Rachael has sent a message to all GP's Practice Nurses and Health Care Assistants to request attendance at future meetings. If members have any healthcare areas they would like to learn more about, the practice will do their best to accommodate these topics of conversation.

At today's meeting the group was joined by Sister Shandice Finnegan one of the Chronic Disease Nurses here at the practice who will be taking over the role of Nurse Manager later this year. Shandice explained her role and the work that she does to ensure Patients with certain types of illness are well looked after and have their medication reviewed. Shandice explained how she is also a Nurse Mentor which means she is involved in mentoring new nurses who are training at university. Shandice discussed how the role has changed since starting her Practice Nurse journey and answered questions from the group.

**Flu Season** - The Practice has now vaccinated the majority of patients who wanted a flu vaccine. We have some patients who have declined or not been well enough to have it, these patients can still be vaccinated up to the end of March and we would encourage them to come forward as soon as possible. Follow up invitations are being sent out this month.

**Winter Pressures** – Dr Karim (GP Locum, formally GP Registrar at Newbold) and Newbold Partners are doing extra clinical sessions During January, February and March to try and manage additional patient demand. We hope that patients will be able to access a GP appointment easily if they need one and avoid inappropriate use of Emergency Appointments and A&E attendance. Members asked if our practice list had increased, we are currently at 11,800patients. A brief discussion was had regarding the difficulty in recruitment and retention of staff in general practice and the difficulties this presents.



**Industrial Action** – The practice is not taking part in any planned industrial action regarding NHS pay scales. Many staff do support the principal behind the action and agree NHS salaries need urgent review to remain competitive specifically with the Living wage increase of 9.6% which is due in April this year.

**Staff Changes** – Dr Popoola (or Dr Tobi as he is known as) our GP Registrar will complete his training at the end of January and will be leaving the practice to work as a fully-fledged GP elsewhere. This week we have welcomed Dr Khawaja to the team (who likes to be known as Dr Ainee). She is in her final year of GP training and will be with us till October. Sadly, one of our receptionists has given notice as she is moving on to a wonderful job opportunity elsewhere, therefore we are currently advertising for a replacement. We are interviewing soon and hope to have someone in place by the end of February.

**PPG Funds** – At the last meeting Rachael was asked to provide the group with an update of available PPG funds. There is currently £841.49 in funds. Members also asked if there was anything the practice needed, and Rachael was asked to bring the agenda item to the January meeting. A suggestion to purchase 2 new fridge data loggers was made and agreed and Rachael will arrange this. Data loggers are basically thermometers which monitor the temperature of the fridges to ensure drugs and vaccines are stored at the correct temperature allowing them to be used safely. The practice was due to replace them this year so this seemed a practical use of PPG funds. A suggestion was also made for a portable ECG machine to allow ECG's to be performed in a patient's home. Shandice will look into the cost and practicality of this. The group were thanked for their fund-raising efforts and continued support. A full annual year end income and expenditure review will take place at the March meeting.

**Well Man and Well Women Health Checks, should these be reinstated?** – It was suggested by members that as the NHS is promoting early diagnosis of health issues that the practice get this programme of health checks up and running again for the benefit of all patients. Rachael explained that the old system had been replaced by the Cardiovascular (CVD) Health Checks or what some refer to as NHS Health Checks. These are offered to all patients who turn 40 years of age and then are offered every 5 years up to age 74 to monitor any changes to their health, results and symptoms. The health checks cover all of what used to be covered in the historical well man or well woman checks. They include smoking status, alcohol consumption, height, weight, BMI, Cholesterol, a record of physical exercise, blood pressure and health care promotion. Often at these appointments concerns are brought to the patient and with minor lifestyle changes, they can avoid or delay the progression of chronic diseases. Follow up appointments are made to monitor patients with abnormal results and in certain circumstances the Health Care Assistant will refer the patient on to the Practice Nurse or GP's for further intervention or care. Patients can book an appointment without an invitation as long as they are age 40-74 and it has been a minimum of 5 years since their last NHS Health Check.

## **AOB**

**Meeting Agenda** – As always, agenda items are welcomed and anyone wishing to discuss anything specific can email Rachael prior to the next meeting in March.

## **Date and Time of Next Meetings:**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - 6.30pm in the Waiting Room

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 6.30pm in the Waiting Room – TBC at March Meeting