

Minutes of Patient Participation Group Meeting

Tuesday 14th June 2022

Present: Julia, Carol, Michelle, Janette, Karen

Apologies: Mel

Clinical research

We welcomed Sophia to the meeting. Sophia spoke to us about clinical research. She explained that she is from the Clinical Research Network, and her role is to encourage people to take part in clinical research. We need people to try new treatments and help others in the future. CRN is part of the NHS. It is not a private company doing private drugs trials. They are focussing on trying drugs which we already know and are familiar with but to use them for different conditions. One example of the forthcoming T2T study into using a well known drug for gout. This drug has been extensively used in the past, but not to treat gout.

There are various ways that people can sign up for research. They may be contacted by the practice to research into a particular condition which that person has. They can join the dementia research. This may be people who have early stage dementia or people without dementia.

People can also sign up for research projects in general at www.nihr.ac.uk/bepartofresearch. If an individual signs up there their details will be kept on a database and they will be contacted if a suitable research study becomes available. Some studies involve trying out drugs. Some may involve visits to the surgery, blood tests, scans. Others may only be completing a questionnaire.

We discussed how the PPG can help. We agreed we will put an article in the next newsletter about it. We can put a sign up to encourage involvement in research. We can put a plea out on Facebook and Instagram.

Minutes from the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Results of enhanced access hours survey

The results of the enhanced access hours survey were distributed. The results were that most patients would prefer additional appointments weekday evenings, then Saturday mornings and then any additional appointments followed by weekday mornings 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. followed by Saturday afternoon. Patients would appear to prefer a mixture of face to face and telephone calls. Those who would not travel, and those who would travel up to 10 miles are about evenly matched.

Newsletter

Michelle explained that she has less time now to devote to creating the newsletter. Mel had looked into a template available which may be easier for other people to use. We could ask him more about that when he returns to the meetings in the autumn. We also agreed that we would particularly like to encourage more new members, and if we could get a new member with the skill set to create the newsletter that would be ideal. We discussed contacting Sponne School again, or we could try the careers lead this time, and also speak to the IT department to see if they would like a project.

Friends and family test

The friends and family test is paused at the moment as we do not have the texting technology, but we are hoping it will come back online soon.

Building works update

The additional clinical rooms are now finished and in use. We are in the process of having a new reception/office area created. Planning has been passed for a second stage of work which will initially probably only be the downstairs changes which are 2 new consulting rooms plus a group consulting room. We discussed the parking issue which is still a problem but fortunately did not prevent the planning from going forward. We do have to send in a new travel plan though.

Lloyds Pharmacy

There were still issues with the Lloyds Pharmacy closing due to the lack of pharmacists.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday 12th July. Apologies from Janette, Julia and Mel.