



## MINUTES

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Battle Health Centre

**Attendees:** Martine Blaser-Smart, Elodie Lanworn, Keith McPherson, John Schultz, Sally Slyfield, Sue Peters and Libby Looseley.

**Apologies:** Steve MacDonald, Alison Sarsons, Jenny Daniels, Tanja Conway-Grimway, Sue Prochak and Annie Rodgers

### Items:

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

Martine chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

#### 2. Apologies

Libby confirmed the apologies.

#### 3. Minutes / items from last meeting

Topics for Facebook – Sally is happy to upload the information on suicide prevention if Tanja is able to provide this (discussed at July meeting). She will upload the ‘we are undefeatable’ campaign to encourage people with long term conditions to exercise.

New HCA - the group asked what services the new HCA can provide. Libby confirmed blood taking, flu vaccines, B12 injections, simple dressings (after nurse review), NHS Health Checks, INR checks, blood pressure checks, 24 hour blood pressure monitoring, ECGs, removal of stitches and the first part of the diabetic check of height, weight and blood pressure.

#### 4. Update on Action Plans

Martine provided an update on the Action Plan:

Walking for Health – Martine shared an email from Steve which said that the meeting with Lorna, the W4H liaison person was really promising. She will run a bespoke course to train up walk leaders if we get 4 volunteers. Steve feels that we need around 6-8 volunteers to create a pool of walk leaders so that it doesn't become arduous for any one person. Martine confirmed that the walk will be on

Tuesdays at 10am and end with refreshments at The George or somewhere else. Andrew who lives in Robertsbridge will plan routes.

Volunteers so far include: Alison, Steve, Richard Hazel, Martine/Elodie. John will ask someone he has in mind. Need a further 2-4. ACTIONS: Steve or Sally to add to Facebook; John to confirm if his friend agrees; everyone else to consider and ask around.

Yoga – Martine shared the feedback from Alison who attended the yoga class on behalf of the PPG:

*Jules runs a yoga class (9.30) followed by Active and Ageless (11.30) on a Wednesday morning at Robertsbridge Youth Club. I attended both.*

*She originally contacted the surgery because she was keen to encourage more mature members of the community to keep active and attend the ageless and active class. The cost of the class is £5.*

*The class consisted of very easy exercises, walking stretching, bending with the aid of a chair. Jules was a very good instructor, making sure everyone was exercising in their limits. On the day I attended there were 10 in the class, all ladies, Jules introduced me, and I then explained about the PPG. Jules says she sometimes has more sometimes less, and on the odd occasion she has men attend. No booking is required. I spoke to a number of the ladies, who had had varying medical conditions from arthritis, hip replacement, heart issues and a stroke. They all said they enjoyed the exercise and friendship the class provided, and the two who had had hip replacements said it assisted with their rehabilitation.*

*I thought Jules class was ideal to keep people active/ or get people active, particularly following injury or falls etc. I said we would put her poster (attached) on the face book page and the PPG notice board. Her classes start again in mid-September.*

Sue shared that Debbie is running a new class in Battle.

ACTIONS: Steve to forward a copy of the poster; Libby to print poster and add to PPG noticeboards (better on here as GPs have to be careful not to endorse or promote one class over another); Sally to add to Facebook page; Sue to provide details of Debbie's class in Battle to promote.

Choir for Carers – the group discussed the Bridge Daytime Singers which are doing a Choir for Carers on Mondays 2-3pm at the Robertsbridge Club. ACTION: agreed to promote on the PPG noticeboard and Facebook page. Volunteer to get a poster? Libby to share with Care for the Carers as an opportunity to share information about their services.

## **5. Update on Meetings Attended**

Martine shared the update from Steve who attended the Hastings & Rother PPG Forum:

Digital Development - this involved a discussion not dissimilar to the one a couple of months ago on MJog, Patient Access and the NHS App. While MJog is more of a useful tool for the practice, the NHS App will in time replace Patient

Access. The challenge with it (as I found) is that it's tricky to get authorised on it, but once it's up and running it's very easy to use. The presentation placed it as a key application for future access to the NHS. The presentation indicated that the patient record access element had to be live by March next year. Libby confirmed that patients are able to access their records via the App now. The App provides an overview of the records e.g. date & condition, vaccine etc rather than the full text of the consultations.

Fall Prevention and Fracture Service - this is part of a national initiative. When patients are perceived to be at risk, or are treated for injury/following a fall, there should be a referral to the service. Carol Crathern, who gave the presentation, also said that individuals may refer themselves. The offer involves a holistic package of support which includes a free course of exercise and advice spanning up to 17 weeks. After then patients may continue to attend but pay a nominal fee. ACTION: Libby to find out details for the self-referral to add to the website.

## **6. Update from the practice**

Libby provided an update from the practice:

Flu clinics – these are running on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at Oldwood and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October in Battle Health Centre. [Update – both clinics went very well. We agreed in advance for the PPG not to attend Oldwood as we expected it to be very busy and were concerned there was no space for the PPG. Sue attended the Battle Clinic, wore the badge John had prepared, and handed out the PPG information leaflet).

Vaccines – discussed under item 9 below.

Out of area patients – given the steady rise in patient numbers and limited space in the current premises to expand services, the practice is more strictly applying the out of area rules. This means that anyone moving outside the practice boundary will be asked to register with another GP practice. Those already on the patient list will not be asked to register elsewhere, unless they move again, and their new address is still outside the practice boundary.

## **7. Finance monthly update**

Keith provided a finance update. There has been no further expenditure this month. Balance continues at £942.42 to spend.

## **8. Events and meetings coming up**

Martine confirmed that there is nothing in the diary as yet. Invitations to external meetings will be circulated via email.

## **9. Vaccinations**

Martine shared an update from Steve:

*One of the documents received with the Forum documents spoke about extending / reviewing the role of PPG's under the new PCN structure. It speaks about PPG's focusing, as we are starting to, as much on patient wellbeing initiatives as much as being a critical friend to the Practice. One area it suggests is in supporting the practice by promoting vaccination take-up in the patient community. We've agreed it's a good idea previously – we just need to know which vaccinations to promote, and when the practice would like them promoted.*

Libby confirmed that now that the new HCA is fully up to speed, the surgery is looking to arrange campaigns for other vaccines. [Update: this is being discussed at the Clinical Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October. ACTION: Libby to provide an update at the next PPG meeting].

## **10. St Michael's Hospice**

Martine volunteers for St Michael's Hospice and would like to raise awareness of the great services they offer. They had a public meeting but it was poorly attended. Agreed the PPG could assist. Often the diagnosis is via secondary care so the GPs are only able to direct if patients/carers come to them with health concerns. Libby confirmed that the GPs meet once a month with the wider community health teams and discuss all palliative patients. If the GPs/health care workers feel a patient or their carer would benefit from hospice services, they ensure contact is made. ACTION: all to consider ways to promote hospice services. Facebook? Patient presentation? Leaflet?

## **11. Defibrillators in Robertsbridge/Battle**

Martine shared the useful list in the Mountfield Messenger of defibrillators. Agreed this would be useful to have in the Robertsbridge Villager and Battle Magazines; plus to have in a poster in the waiting rooms. Steve was creating a map but was awaiting an up to date list from South East Community First Responders. ACTION: to ask Steve for an update and create a list.

## **12. Issues raised by patients**

Immunotherapy treatment for cancer - Martine asked if Libby could find out what the criteria is for patients to get Immunotherapy treatment for cancer. She has recently been told that it is only available privately and not on the NHS. Elodie expressed concerns about a postcode lottery for treatment.

Update – Libby asked the CCG's Medicines Management Team who confirmed that Immunotherapy is not currently available on the NHS and explained the process for treatment decisions:

*The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) makes the decisions about which cancer treatments will be made available in England – it is a rigorous process that allows all treatments to be compared taking into account benefits of the treatment and cost. NHS England is responsible for implementing NICE's decisions through nationally approved treatment pathways and making sure that if a treatment is approved by NICE then it is available to all eligible patients on the NHS regardless of where they live.*

### **13. Date & agenda items for next meeting**

The next meeting is: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at Oldwood Surgery 7pm.

### **14. AOB**

Increase in number of emails sent to the PPG – discussed increase in emails and invitations to attend events. Agreed becoming too much. ACTION: Libby to feedback to the CCG who send the invites. [Update: the CCG have said that this is due to the merger of Hastings, Eastbourne and Surrey CCG's so the area covered is bigger and requests for PPG input/feedback on services is greater. Libby to add to agenda for next meeting to agree what information the PPG would like to receive].