

Oldwood Surgery & Battle Health Centre Patients Participation Group



1st March 2021

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Steve MacDonald (Chair), Alison Sarson, Martine Blaser-Smart, Elodie Lanworn, John Schultz, Keith McPherson, Sue Peters, Tanja Conway-Grim, Jenny Daniels, Sally Slyfield, Libby Looseley (Practice Manager)
Items raised prefaced by initials.

Apologies: N/A

Items:

1. Welcome

SM opened the meeting and welcomed the group.

2. Apologies

None

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 1st February, circulated prior to meeting, approved.

4. Update from practice

LL updated the meeting

Over 20,000 patients have now received the Covid 19 vaccination at Etchingham vaccination centre.

As of last Friday (26th February) the surgery has been booking cohort 7, the 60-64 age group. Everyone over 65 has been contacted and either been vaccinated or declined.

On 8th March when pupils return to schools, the larger hall at Etchingham School and Village Hall will no longer be available to the vaccination centre.

Dr.'s McNeilly and Pashley (Sedlescombe practice) – the two Directors of the Rural Rother Primary Care Network (PCN) - are in discussions with Sussex Community Foundation Trust (SCFT) as to how this will impact the vaccination plans.

AA road signs have been erected to assist patients driving to Etchingham for their vaccination. National DfT guidance has been amended to minimize misdirection after the PPG Chair contact the DfT to allow the name of centres to be included on the signs. Existing signs will be updated and are due to be put back up and paid for by East Sussex Highways.

Dr. McNeilly is due to retire and his last working day at the practice will be March 19th. The PPG discussed how it would mark his retirement.

Dr. Ed Dayton, the new practice GP, will start on 1st May.

One new receptionist has started, and another is due to start on 15th March. Warren, the paramedic has started and settled in well.

On 1st April the practice will look to return to annual patient reviews based on the work capacity available. These will re-commence on a priority and 'need' basis, then by birth date. Libby will put more detail on the website when the details are available.

SP asked about dates for 2nd Covid vaccinations. LL stated that patients would be contacted by the surgery in good time, but at present it is unclear what capacity there will be at Etchingham. All patients would be vaccinated again at the 12-week point.

SP raised the issue of the booking process through the National booking centre being different to the one for those using the Practice. Those using the National system are automatically given a date for the 2nd vaccination, whereas those using the Practice wait to be contacted. Libby stated that the surgery follows the national process, which is different for the two processes.

SM asked a question raised through the PPG Facebook page – can a patient who had received their first vaccination via GP contact book the second using via the National system? At the meeting LL said that she would check. Update (LL) – patients should use the same process for both vaccinations.

SP asked if there was any planning taking place for permanent vaccination centres. LL stated she was unaware of any planning taking place but that if it were it would be through the SCFT and Sussex Health Commissioners (CCG).

TCG asked whether the surgery had any plans to change the geographical boundaries for the surgery patients and cited a case of a household where one resident was a patient, the other could not be because of the boundary. LL stated that the practice is currently at patient capacity so sticks rigidly to the boundaries, that there were no plans to review them currently, and that she would look at the apparent anomaly given.

5. Action Plan Update

No change

6. Finance

No change

7. HAIRE project

JD provided an update on the HAIRE project. Over fifty interviews have been conducted; local interviews conducted up to 15th March will be analysed and the results made available over the summer. Interviews may continue after the 15th March but will not form part of the analysis. The project is focused on Robertsbridge residents.

One output will be items for inclusion into local organisation / community action plans. JD asked that the PPG consider supporting the project by incorporating suitable actions into the PPG action plans when the report is published. Rother Volunteer Action (RVA) will take the action plan forward over the following 2 years.

8. Patient issues

MBS asked whether the 'Patient Access' App is still available as she had experienced some problems with it. This had resulted in her changing to use the NHS app, which had been awkward to install, but easier to use once set up.

The meeting agreed that the NHS app was a challenge to install and the PPG should consider how we might encourage and help patients them to install It after Covid restrictions ease sufficiently for face to face contact. SM noted that the CCG had a digital implementation project that was currently on hold due to Covid redeployment but that this included addressing the patient. He had offered to assist the CCG as a digital champion for Battle and Robertsbridge.

LL said that the Patient Access app is currently still available so far as she is aware. It was checked during the meeting and confirmed that it is still 'live'.

KM raised an issue about a text message from the Practice that he received asking him to phone the surgery regarding updating his personal data on the NHS database. He suggested a response by e mail would be a better option as he had had trouble in getting answered – something he had anticipated in these busy times. LL will discuss the suggestion with the practice IT lead.

9. AOB

Libby informed the meeting that following Dr McNeilly's retirement, Dr Sewell would be the PPG lead GP contact, and he is keen to get involved.

Next meeting: Monday 12th April 2021 7pm