

CAPE CORNWALL SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on 22nd November 2018 at 7pm

Present:

Ian Cary, Joyce Lee, Chris Goninan, Fiona Cock, John Rudge, Neil Foss, Clive Apsey, Marna Blundy

Apologies:

Elisabeth Thomas

Cape Surgery news

1. Dr Mackenzie will be returning to work on April 1st, but has chosen to go part-time, two days per week.
Dr Clift will be joining the practice from elsewhere in Cornwall, working 2 days per week from January 2019, as a salaried GP.
Dr Ludwig is on a nine-month contract, and it is unclear whether she will wish to renew it.
Dr Quill wishes to remain in a locum capacity.
So far the practice has been unsuccessful in attracting another partner or salaried GP – this is a national problem.
2. Cape is offering a weekly Thursday evening surgery as its extended hours (requirement to add ½ hour per 1000 patients, so 2½ hours per week. Cape is participating in the Locality Enhanced Hours provision, whereby practices throughout Penwith offer out of hours GP consultations seven days a week (not all day on Saturdays or Sundays) to patients in all Penwith practices.
3. Other staffing changes:
Gill Jelbert is retiring in January, and the practice will be looking to recruit another dispenser
Clare Trewern has taken up a nursing post, having transferred from the Hospice
Kate Savage has become a receptionist, replacing Caroline Ballard who has moved to Australia
4. The practice has a new Community Care Coordinator (Zoe Humphreys) on a one-year funding contract from PCH. Zoe is a trained paramedic, and is working with the community nursing team, including Christina Middleton the community matron, to support vulnerable patients attempting to improve health outcomes and reduce hospital admissions.

KCCG – NHS Winter Messages

The Communications Lead wishes to run a session in the surgery to get winter messages across, and seeks PPG volunteers to support. It was agreed that this could usefully be combined with messages from Age UK and the 50+ Forum. The group proposed w/c January 7th, and Chris Goninan, Fiona Cock and Marna Blundy offered to support this, hopefully extending a surgery presence for the whole week.

Ian will arrange a date and let Fiona know, and the three volunteers will get together to plan their sessions.

Community Hospital beds

It was confirmed that premature hospital discharges, and the lack of community hospital beds, is resulting in increased workload for the GPs, together with an increased risk of readmission.

Cuts in emergency ambulances

The reduction in emergency ambulances at the Penzance Station from four to two is impacting on response times. Examples were given of a serious RTA witnessed by a nurse from the practice, where the ambulance didn't arrive for 90 minutes; and a doctor from the practice who had to wait

with a patient for 45 minutes in cardiac arrest. It was suggested that Jeremy Preedy, as the PPG representative on Locality, should be raising such issues from the PPG. Ian Cary suggested that the PPG Chairperson e-mail Jeremy Preedy and request that he formally raises this issue for the Cape Cornwall PPG at the next locality meeting.

Minor Injuries at Cape Surgery

Ian confirmed that a minor injury service is available at the surgery for anyone to access, for injuries caused within 24 hours. There was discussion about whether this needs more publicity, and the practice is paid for eligible patients who attend.

Social Prescribing

It was agreed that this can be helpful to patients and that resources and services are available in St Just, often offered by voluntary groups. Breakfasts and lunches are valuable to the lonely and isolated at the Methodist Church and in Pendeen; activity and exercise are available at the Sports Centre (though funding could be an issue); Knit and Natter groups and U3A are other groups available.

Dementia support in the practice

There was discussion about how the practice can provide support to patients and carers. The Primary Care Dementia Practitioner, Alison, has a heavy workload. Chris Goninan raised concerns at the low levels of early diagnosis, and the extreme pressure on carers with inadequate support. It was agreed that help in getting Attendance Allowance, such as provided by Fiona with Age UK, could help carers in buying some help; but that the stress on carers in particular is intolerable. Fiona will work on getting ideas and information for a leaflet detailing local help available, such as those outlined above under Social Prescribing. Such a leaflet could be given out by GPs as well as publicised in the surgery.

Any other business

Difficulties with bloods having to be redone, but it was believed this was an isolated occurrence.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 14th February, 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.25pm