



Meeting: Patient Participation Group Meeting

Date: 18.01.2018

Agenda:

1. **Apologies**
2. **Cuts to patient Transport and Modernising radiotherapy for discussion**
3. **Debate over the Future of Community Hospitals**
5. **Accountable Care Organisations**
6. **Cape Cornwall Surgery News**
7. **Any Other Business**
8. **Date of next Meeting**

Present: Ian Cary (IC), Marna Blundy, Chris Goninan, John Rudge, Elisabeth Thomas, Fiona Cock, Dr D Carruthers

Apologies: Mr Aspey,

1. Apologies

Were received from Mr C Aspey,

2 Cuts to Patient Transport and Modernising Radiotherapy for discussion

It was agreed that both cuts to transport and the planned modernising of radiotherapy services would have severe negative implications for the patients of our surgery. Transport would be a focus for the Kernow Community Interest Company Dr Carruthers informed the meeting. However there was no indication as to what would be planned. Our patients were lucky as they had the service of The Douglas Woolcock Transport. The new plan to move more difficult radiotherapy cases to Plymouth or Exeter would involve severe hardship for our patients due to distance and indeed the lack of transport. Patients would have a long journey when probably feeling very unwell. MB read out a list of the services that were to be moved and it appeared to the group that these covered a high percentage of cases. The area would continue to fight this move.

3 Debate over the future of Community Hospitals. What do we think?

There was general agreement that there was very little provision left of Community Hospitals, Helston Cottage Hospital remained open and was seen as very good for patient care. West Cornwall Hospital was now seen as being downgraded to take patients from Treliske who were still needing hospital input but on a lesser scale. The lack of social care and the bed blocking this caused seemed counterproductive as it

was now affecting acute services at Treliske where beds were filled with elderly patients who could not be discharged. DC also brought to the attention of the group that this also affected the practice as nursing homes were now taking the place of Community beds and the surgery were now looking after very sick patients from other areas without any prior knowledge of their medical history.

4 Accountable Care Organisations

These were the latest re-structuring strategy from the Dept Of Health for health services and social care to be moulded together. There would be 4 within Cornwall and from information available the structure and workings of these organisations were still in the planning stage. It was thought that they would bring together ideas from the GP Forward Plan and Shaping Our Future. DC felt that to bring together two services Health and Social Care when both were struggling would need a lot of resource if it was to be successful

5 Cape Cornwall News

DC gave the meeting a long talk to reassure the group that the practice had been very proactive to ensure that all medical services now available would be in place after April 2018. Dr Ellery is sadly leaving the practice to work with his wife at Praze surgery at the end of March and this coincides with the good news that Dr McKenzie is expecting her first baby 9 days later. Dr McKenzie is intending to take 9 months maternity leave and locum cover is in place for this. The practice had advertised for a partner to take the place of Dr Ellery but to date no suitable candidate had applied. Indeed, as with the situation throughout the country, there had been hardly any applications for the post. However the post remained advertised and it is hoped that the right candidate will eventually be found. There would be cover from 4 locums during the period, two of which, Dr Knowles and Dr Quill, had already done sessions at the surgery and patients had found them both professional and very approachable. Dr Blight who lives in Camborne was also going to help out with a few sessions and, together with Dr Carruthers, continuity would be ensured. Ms Tracy Hemborough, a very experienced Nurse Practitioner who works at Alverton Surgery in Penzance, is also going to help with well woman, sexual health and contraception on a weekly basis.

Unfortunately the practice would not be able to attend branch surgeries at Sennen, St Buryan and St Levan during this period; there was the suggestion that patients could use the Douglas Woolcock Transport to travel to St Just if there was a problem with transport.

The clinical research carried out at Cape Cornwall Surgery is moving to Praze with Dr Ellery. Dr Carruthers will re-start this again when Dr McKenzie returns after her maternity leave. Sadly Ms Tina Vinnell who has given the surgery such sterling service over many years will be made redundant from the end of March and the staff and her patients will miss her very much.

There will also be no registrar training at the practice for 9 months but this will be reinstated by Dr Carruthers who is a fully qualified trainer later in the year. The NHS is changing the extended hours required from GP practices and over the next 9 months there will be no Saturday morning surgery but possibly one late evening a week attended by Dr Carruthers and a nurse.

6 Any Other Business

CG felt that the PPG as a group should be more proactive and have more interaction with the patients. There was a long discussion about this. To try to explain to patients the changes within the NHS structure which was felt to be not clear enough yet and no one felt confident to do this. It was decided that there would be table set up in the conservatory and the group would be available during Dementia Awareness Week, May 21st-26th to sign post patients to the Memory clinic and the Carers Group, Leaflets would be available. and a member of the group to explain any issues that the patients might want to know more about. It was also suggested that the PPG (Patient Participation Group) should have their names and a photo on display within the surgery.

The local chemist's premises is on the market and the implications of this were discussed but it was felt that hopefully this would not have any negative effect on the surgery dispensary however the situation would be kept under review.

7. Date of next Meeting: April 19th 2018 at 7pm Cape Cornwall Surgery