



ASHOVER MEDICAL CENTRE
MINUTES OF PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING ON 10th OCTOBER 2023
AT 6.30pm in ASHOVER VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendees, apologies and welcomes

Present: Gordon Johnson (Chairman). Dr Rosier, Dr Vernon, Jo Gordon, and Debbie Hirstwood, and Adele Hollingworth from the Practice. Bernard Everett, Barbara Marsh (Matlock), Chris Miller, Jose Rogers, Colin Seeds, and Robert Webster from the Ashover Patients' Group.

Apologies: James Miller, Helen Sharman, Mike Thomas, Caroline Rodgers

The Chairman reported on the resignation of Helen Sharman due to health issues. The Chairman put on the record his thanks to Isabel for her invaluable help in fighting a proposed change in the rules which would have prevented new patients from being able to access the Dispensary service.

The Chairman welcomed Rick Gooch from the Derbyshire Dales Primary Care Network.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on the 11th October 2022.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 7th May 2023 which had been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.

3. Practice Update

Jo Gordon was pleased to report that there had been no changes in the support staff since the last meeting. Also, a full complement of Nurses has now been appointed and there is a Nurse on duty every day. The Practice also has the services of a Clinical Pharmacist to advise on long term conditions and to assist in medication reviews.

Jo Gordon also reported that Adele Hollingworth, the Practice Secretary, has agreed to see if the Waiting Area could be humanised with some Artwork from local artists and made a plea to members of the PPG for help with sourcing and mounting the pictures. If any member is able to help, please contact Adele at the Surgery. Chris Miller suggested that Joanne, the Village Hall Manager, might be able to help.

4. The work and objectives of the Derbyshire Dales Primary Care Network

The Chair welcomed Rick Gooch, the Data and Communications Manager of the PCN. Rick reported that the PCN had no supervisory role over individual Practice but has been created to promote and facilitate collaborative working in the Derbyshire Dales to provide better outcomes for patients and to reduce the pressures for those working in General Practice. The Derbyshire and Dales Primary Care Network has 8 General Practices in its membership ranging from the Hope Valley in the North to Matlock in the South and serves some 50,000 patients.

The discussion was wide ranging but much of the time was spent on the development of a new home visits service to reduce the burden of on Practices home visits. Rick Gooch reported that the PCN now has a team of GP's, Advanced Practice Nurses and Paramedics who are able to provide a home visit service to the Derbyshire Dales area both in emergencies and for routine visits. This results in more time for appointments in member Practices. Despite initial reservations the service has been very well received by patients. The team also administers Covid and Flu vaccinations to the vulnerable. Funding for the service comes from central funds and is not an additional cost to GP practices. The PCN is planning to add Mental Health Specialists to the teams but is handicapped by a chronic shortage of Mental Health practitioners from which they can recruit.

It was agreed that the creation of Primary Care Networks has the potential to promote collaborative working and is showing real benefits in the Derbyshire Dales. A vote of thanks was given to Rick Gooch for a very well informed and interesting discussion

5. Any Other Business

The chair raised the issue of future meetings raised and it was agreed that Ashover would diary four meetings a year similar to the present pattern. They would be open to members of the Matlock PPG. It was also agreed as before and in addition to routine business each meeting would have a focus supported by our GP's or Speaker. Suggestions would be very welcome. The Chairman agreed to circulate proposed dates for 2024.

6. Date of next meeting

The following dates for 2024 are proposed.

Tuesday 27th February

Tuesday 23rd April

Tuesday 23rd July

Tuesday 8th October

All at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Therefore, the date of the next meeting is proposed for Tuesday 27th February