

SWALLOWFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE

Patient Group Meeting

Minutes

5 September 2016

Action

- 1 **Present:** Dave, Roberta, Fran, Jane, Roger, Mike, Rosemary, Dr Beacham
Apologies: Sandy, Jim
- 2 **Welcome:**
Roberta welcomed everyone to the meeting
- 3 **Staffing update**
We have had a turn around regarding receptionists with 3 leaving in quick succession due to maternity, retirement and voluntary resignation. We have filled 2 permanent posts but are still trying to recruit for the temporary maternity vacancy (a candidate had accepted but pulled out 1 week prior to the start date).
No other vacancies exist and we are running with a full complement of nurses and GPs.
One of our nurses is training to be a minor illness nurse and will complement our existing acute illness nurse. Introducing this new way of working has been very successful and has relieved some of the pressure from the doctors who can concentrate more on the patients with complex needs rather than simple, treatable illnesses such as coughs, sore throats, tummy issues etc.
- 4 **Newsletter**
The autumn newsletter has been produced (thanks Fran, Sandy and Dave).
Distribution is already wide:
via Email - >500 (so far), Loddon Reach >4000, Parish Newsletter > 850 - Riseley book store @20, WI @30, plus copies are available in all surgeries as well as the surgery website.

Mike suggested that to increase distribution of the GP letter that doctors could give a copy to patients at the end of consultations. Will to discuss this with his colleagues.
- 5 **Extension Update**
Although plans have been approved for the extension funding is still uncertain. NHS England have still to inform bidders who has been successful and what funding will be available for them. In spite of this work continues behind the scenes with quotes being obtained for mechanical & electrical consultancy.
- 6 **Sustainability of GP services**
Dr Beacham gave a frank view on the current status of GP services. He indicated that the financial climate is currently extremely stiff - SMP has weathered the storm better than many but is now facing similar problems to those of other practices in the area. Income streams for GP services are complex and are being cut and expenses continue to rise - Whilst we have made every effort for many years to provide a good service to our patients it is inevitable that, with the constant changes made by governments to contracts and services combined with funding cuts, we will not be able to maintain our standards in the current climate. Everyone of the employees at the practice is working at full capacity, from GP, Nurses, dispensers, reception and admin staff.
- 7 **CCG Update**

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To help with the 7 day working model proposed by the government, the CCG is considering a pilot Urgent Care Scheme in Wokingham. This will be a central hub, manned by GPs from several neighbouring practices.... Details still to be finalised. However, the future of CCGs themselves is also uncertain with the government now leaning towards larger organisational units or Accountable Care Organisations (a return to the old PCT, PCG and FHSA!)

8 **Wokingham PPG Forum**

Next meeting is at 7pm, 6 October at Wokingham Town Hall - Rosemary very kindly agreed to represent SMP this time

Date of Next meeting: 5 December 2016 - 6.30pm