

MINUTES OF PPG MEETING HELD AT THORNS ROAD SURGERY ON 11.09.2023

In Attendance: AT, JH, WP, SD, JP, JL, JP, CH, BC.

AT: Welcome! The aim of this meeting is to encourage more patients to register at the surgery. Meeting to be held every 3 months. We need to establish who will be Chairman for the group. BC has agreed to do this. Information to be gathered from posters re: free gym, healthy lifestyle, etc. Need any information that would benefit the Surgery, i.e. local cafes, meet and greet, etc. BC will do this. We can put up a separate board up in the waiting room e.g. food banks, food poverty, etc.

BC: lost 4 stone in weight 4 – 5 years ago. Did not understand food. This was a reality check and changed his life. Worked with Brierley Hill & Social Care Centre.

AT: Spoke with Nurse and she may attend the next PPG meeting in order to spread the word about healthy eating, etc.

BC: Dementia awareness at an early age. Interested in this.

WP: We have social prescribers where we can refer patients to for help with loneliness, etc.

AT: Patients can be referred for occupational therapy, shopping, transport, etc. Newsletter page 2 has a list of PCN staff. Not much information on there about stroke groups. At the next meeting there will be a more detailed list of PCN staff. Will put a board up with staff names and pictures of them.

JL: Is a community care nurse. Not many people are aware that this service is available.

BC: Used to be a carer for his father. Father is now in a care home. Feels like he has lost his job.

AT: Regarding COVID vaccinations: Only 2 surgeries (including Thorns Road Surgery) expressed an interest in giving the COVID vaccine. 5 other surgeries said they were not interested, so we will not be doing them here. Patients that want to have the COVID vaccine need to call 119 COVID helpline. They will advise where the nearest clinic is. AT will try to find out more information regarding this. Shingles age has now been lowered? This needs to be confirmed. Flu vaccine: Patient will have a link on their phone to book in for this. There is a new deadline for flu vaccines to be given and they all have to be given by 15th December. Pharmacies always get the flu vaccines in before GP surgeries. It is in patient's best interest to have their flu at their GP surgery as they have access to their medical records and the pharmacy do not have access to patient's health conditions. If patient is eligible for the flu vaccine they do not pay the pharmacy for this. There is talk of flu/COVID to be merged. This is to be confirmed. We have a new assistant that has started at the surgery who has a medical background. He can do blood tests (Thursday). Clinics are already set up for blood pressure checks, height, weight etc. He will be doing more in the near future i.e. LTC, smoking cessation, etc. Maybe get some feedback about the new assistant at the next meeting?

CH: There seems to be some lack of communication as patients are not aware of the new assistant. We need to make patients aware of things like this.

Date of next meeting: To be announced.