

Minutes of the PPG held on 10th September 2018

In attendance

Michelle Kenward
Charlotte Backler
Ken – Hankham
Fred – Westham
Neal - Langney
Ann – Westham
Pam – Pevensey Bay
Lin – Pevensey Bay
Sue – Westham
Yvonne – Stone Cross

Apologies

Jane - Hankham
Carol – Pevensey Bay

Locality Link Worker

1. The meeting started with an update from the Locality Link Worker for Eastbourne, Julie Tremlin. She said that funding for her work has not been cut but there is more and more demand and the resources cannot keep up. She provided a very useful handout and recapped her role in the area and gave examples of the ways she can support PPGs with events. She does a lot to link up existing groups in the community including churches, lunch clubs etc. There is a great deal of loneliness among the elderly especially at weekends but there is a lot going on if only people knew about it. One way they can know what's on is through the website East Sussex Community Information Service (ESCIS). Her work involves bringing existing groups together and initiating new ones.

Other items discussed with Julie included the closure of Firwood House (Fred), the availability of a large community room at Church Bailey (Sue), Hankham Village Society (Ken) and the gap between the age you are and the age you feel and the implication of that for joining clubs and groups (Lin).

The Minutes of the last meeting

2. The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and Michelle reported that the TV in the main waiting room is being used to spread the word about medicines management and the upcoming flu immunisations. Charlotte reported that two research projects are about to start.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

3. Staff member, Rachael, came to tell us about the Macmillan Coffee Morning which she is leading in the main waiting room on Friday 28th September. She has secured lots of great raffle prizes from local businesses but would love donations of cakes on the day.

Apprentice Health Care Assistant

4. Michelle reported that the surgery has an apprentice Health Care Assistant, Isobel. Her apprenticeship is for 18 months and she is currently doing her bloods training.

New ST3 Doctor

5. Michelle reported that Dr Elham Sadeghi is continuing her training at another practice in Eastbourne and that the surgery has a new trainee GP in her last year of training Dr Moti who is proving a welcome addition to the team.

Nurse Rachael leaving

6. Michelle reported that Nurse Rachael is leaving at the end of October. She is leaving for a job

with more hours at another local surgery. On a positive note, the practice has recruited a new practice nurse, Lynn.

Expansion space update

7. Michelle said that, disappointingly, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) finances are so much in deficit that there is no funding for the expansion this financial year. Asked about coping with the rising population, she said that they are looking at different options one of them is to possibly open Westham surgery Monday to Friday in future.

International GP update

8. Plans for recruiting an international GP have been delayed but Michelle hoped it would be possible before the end of the year.

Surgery boundary update

9. Michelle described how extensive the surgery catchment area is. The practice is trying to reduce the area which stretches as far as the Sovereign Centre, Hampden Park, Polegate and Hooe. They have contacted NHS England and the Locality meeting but there has been no decision yet. Lin suggested contacting the local MP, Huw Merriman. She has found him very helpful and agreed to contact him about this issue.

Any Other Business

10. Yvonne reported on the most recent PPG forum and gave out some materials she had collected there. Much emphasis was being put on medicines management, more use of over the counter medication and more self care. She said how useful the forum was and encouraged others to attend. The next meeting is on Wednesday 21st November at Polegate Community Centre.

11. Fred asked whether the NHS was funding the prescription service currently being advertised on television but was assured it was a purely commercial venture.

12. Sue reported that a large, heavy vehicle is continuing to park on the surgery car park at Church Bailey, damaging the surface. Michelle will see what can be done.

13. Sue also reported a broken alarm on the back wall of the Westham surgery. Michelle will see what needs to be done.

14. Michelle said that the flu jab programme is later this year and there is a different jab for 18-64 year olds than for 65s and over. They are asking people to book appointments. Each appointment is for one minute so there will be queues and Sue suggested PPG members might attend to talk to patients about the surgery services etc.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 6th December 2018