

PANGBOURNE MEDICAL PRACTICE

PPG Meeting Minutes

Held on 27 January 2022 at 6.15 pm

Virtual Meeting

Present: Rosie Barker (Practice Manager), John Creagh, Sarah Dixon (Chair), Belinda Drew, Doreen Hawkins, Kim Hiscutt, Brenda Hook, Dr C Keast (GP), Linda Price, Diana Smith

1. Introduction and welcome to new members

We welcomed three new members to the PPG: Belinda Drew, Brenda Hook and John Creagh

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Barry Ashdown, Joan Bott, Lee Carter, Carolyn Gerald, Louisa Nicoll and Gillian Reid

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Dr Manjadhria's name was misspelled. SMD will send the corrected minutes to Rosie for posting on the surgery website.

4. COVID-19 Update/Vaccines

Because of the onset of the Omicron variety there was a major operation in December to give booster vaccinations to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible. As usual, the vaccination team did an amazing job. Many patients had contracted Covid, however, so their boosters had to be delayed (4 weeks for adults, 12 weeks for teenagers). They were/will be vaccinated in due course.

The Omicron variety does seem to be highly transmissible, and many families are getting it en masse. However, for fully vaccinated people, the disease seems to be unpleasant but not life-threatening. Dr Keast reported that the ICU at the Royal Berks Hospital still has Covid-infected patients, and they are all unvaccinated.

Dr Keast reported that the surgery has strict guidelines in place to protect the surgery staff and patients alike. Consultations are normally initially by phone, to reduce the footfall in the surgery. However, the GPs have no hesitation in asking patients to attend in person if they feel it is necessary.

5. Covid measures in Primary Care

Rosie Barker was asked if surgery staff were required to be vaccinated. We were told that any organisation that is CQC regulated must have fully vaccinated staff, and so all surgery staff are vaccinated. There were no refusers.

6. GP Registrars

Dr Thompson is covering Dr Manjadhria while she is away on sabbatical. Dr Franklin will be with us until August.

7. New staff

We will soon be welcoming a Paramedic to the surgery team. He/she will be used to triage patients and to treat acutely ill patients at the surgery.

The surgery is currently advertising for a new nurse.

Lucy Hill, our Social Prescriber, is currently on maternity leave (congratulations!) and her duties are being covered by Liz Slocombe.

8. Cancer Screening

There has been a very good uptake of smear tests. The breast screening van will be with us for March. Rosie Barker was asked the ranges for testing:

Breast screening: 50 – 71 years

Smear tests: 25 – 49 years, every 3 years; 50 – 64, every 5 years; over 65, only if abnormal cells detected in previous tests

We were told that there is currently no national scheme for prostate cancer screening. Dr Keast said that this was partly because the PSA level is not sufficiently accurate. It is believed, however, that MRA screening will be commonplace within 5 years.

We were all asked to encourage our family, friends and neighbours to accept invitations for screening, and not to ignore possible symptoms. Early diagnosis is crucial.

9. Ongoing problems with Lloyds Pharmacy

Members of the PPG are often asked by friends and neighbours about surgery matters, and given the current problems with Lloyds Pharmacies we are often asked about the best ways to get prescriptions fulfilled. If we can answer their questions then it will save a phone call to the already very busy reception team. Sarah Dixon and Doreen Hawkins had prepared a short list of FAQs; there was not time to discuss them at the meeting so it was agreed that we would send them to Dr Keast and Rosie Barker. When we receive the answers we will circulate them to the PPG members.

10. AOB

The Surgery is preparing to put in a bid for funding to make improvements to the access ramp to the surgery building. Rosie Barker sought support from the PPG to strengthen the bid, which the meeting was very glad to endorse.

New PPG member Belinda Drew is an ambassador for a charity called Public Health Collaboration which aims to encourage better public health through healthy decisions. She asked if she could have a meeting with the dedicated diabetes nurse at the Surgery to see if there were any ways in which they could work together. Rosie said that she would pass Belinda's contact details onto the relevant staff member.

Rosie was asked whether there is a "Friends and Family Test" form. Because of fears of surface contamination there is currently no paper form available. There is one on the Surgery Website although the uptake is very low.

There will be an Art Café on 19th February. Our main aim is to raise awareness of the PPG, but we shall also be raising funds to pay for mouthpieces for the FeNO machine, which is used in the diagnosis and treatment of asthma, and cartridges for the CRP machine. Sarah will send an email round to everyone with details of the event and how to contribute.

Date of next meeting 24th March 2022 at 6.15 pm

In person or Zoom – will be decided nearer the date