

Pangbourne Medical Practice
PPG Meeting Minutes
Held on 4 August at 6.15 pm
In-person Meeting

Present: Barry Ashdown, Lee Carter, John Creagh, Sarah Dixon (Chair), Doreen Hawkins, Kim Hiscutt, Dr Chris Keast, Louisa Nicoll, Linda Price, Gill Reid

1. Introduction and welcome to new members

We had no new members at this meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Rosie Barker (Practice Manager), Carolyn Geraldine and Kit Marriott

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted

Presentation on the clinical research done at the practice

Before the main business of the meeting Dr Keast gave a presentation on the clinical research done at the practice. Currently the practice is involved with two research projects, and employs a dedicated research nurse, Vicky Anderson

The first project is looking into the early detection of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) by carrying out CCP Antibody Tests on non-symptomatic patients. Cyclic citrullinated peptides (CCP) are a type of autoantibody and if they are found in your blood it can be a sign of RA. Patients who test positive are offered the chance to go to Leeds for in-depth investigation and diagnosis

The second study is a pan-European study into ways of reducing the over-prescribing of antibiotics by using specific tests on presenting patients and only prescribing antibiotics if they test positive

In addition, there is a nurse-led scheme to help gout patients to better manage their condition by monitoring their levels of uric acid

Finally, a new vaccine is available to help combat respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in babies. RSV can be serious for babies and can lead to pneumonia. It is hoped that the new vaccine will lead to a reduction in admissions, and the results are being monitored in the surgery

Dr Keast is retiring...

After 31 years at the practice, Dr Keast is retiring. He will leave on 1st January 2023, but will be on sabbatical from September. He told us that he has seen many changes over his time here; it is perhaps even safer and better for patients nowadays, but when he started the work was more varied and exciting for the doctors. On behalf of the PPG and all the patients we thanked him wholeheartedly for his dedication and support. He will be very much missed.

The new senior partner will be Dr Rupert Woolley

We then continued with the Agenda.

4. Covid update and vaccination programme

Rosie Barker was not able to be present at the meeting but kindly sent in a report about the vaccination programme and surgery news

As it stands we plan to co-administer both covid and flu vaccines at clinics with a similar set up to the covid clinics. Clinics will be here at the surgery at weekends. Likely start late September / early December, due to our flu delivery - assuming no disruption to supply chain & we're able to staff the clinic! Will use text invites allowing online booking, and call those without mobiles, as before the message is 'please wait to hear from us'. We cannot commence invites until the programme we use updates to include Autumn programme module, and the guidance and specification is finalised. Current JCVI advice has changed again recently, as it stands the current cohorts will be eligible for an Autumn covid booster:

- Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- Frontline health and social care workers
- All adults aged 50 years and over
- Persons aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, as set out in the Green Book
- Persons aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- Persons aged 16 to 49 years who are carers, as set out in the Green Book.

And the following for a flu vaccine:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- all children aged 2 to 10 (but not 11 years or older) on 31 August 2022 (i.e. up to school Year 6)
- pregnant women
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals

Additionally:

- 50 to 64 year olds not in clinical risk groups (including those who turn 50 by 31 March 2023) at a later date following prioritisation of the more vulnerable groups.
- Secondary school-aged children focusing on years 7, 8 and 9 and any remaining vaccine will be offered to years 10 and 11, subject to vaccine availability

5. Surgery news and staffing matters

New diabetes nurse, Holly, starting 12th September.

New phlebotomist, Lynn, joining 10th August

New GP registrar, Dr Jesse Jaremek, from 3rd August - Dr Giselle Franklin has now left.

Nurse Practitioner Caroline retiring mid-October - recruitment underway

Interviews for dispensary vacancy this week resulted in a successful placement - we have now recruited to fill the Dispensary vacancy on Thursday and Friday, plus an extra day to increase capacity in the team. Nicki has 5 years experience in GP dispensing and joins us on 15th August.

We have also been successful in recruiting to replace Nurse Caroline who retires end of October. Katie will join mid-October and, like Caroline, is a prescribing nurse and qualified to fit coils and implants.

There are now no outstanding vacancies in the surgery team

The Friends and Family Test (FFT) has restarted - results and comments so far were sent to the PPG before the meeting. Mostly excellent with lovely comments. Learning point - patients thinking we only offered telephone consultations, realised this was online bookings as default slot name was still 'telephone consultation' (though could be, and mostly were, used as face-to-face, reception would change slot type) reverted open slot name with message online asking patients to state if they would like telephone or face-to-face when booking.

In addition, the surgery has received further accolades:

NHS Choices page: [Ratings and reviews - The Boat House Surgery - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/choices/boat-house-surgery/)

Recent article in Reading Newspaper stated we are ranked in the top 20 Surgeries in the UK on google reviews.

GP Survey 2022 results - really good scores, above averages across all areas. Summarising power point slide attached with email, full results here: [GP Patient Survey \(gp-patient.co.uk\)](https://gp-patient.co.uk/)

I expect everyone will already know that **Dr Chris Keast has announced his retirement**. Dr Keast will be on sabbatical from September; Dr Jess Keast will be providing additional locum sessions, available for all patients to book into, throughout August to increase GP capacity. Dr Jess Keast will then provide sabbatical cover directly for Dr Chris Keast September - October.

We are pleased to announce that **Dr Kirsty Thompson** will be joining us later this year to replace Dr Keast when he retires. Patients of Dr Keast have been text / letters in post to advise that they will be transferred to Dr Thompson's list and asked not to request moving to an alternative GP - an announcement has also been made on facebook and our website. Dr Thompson was our registrar 2020-21, worked as a locum to provide extra GP capacity last summer and then covered Dr Manjadhria's sabbatical over winter. We are increasing GP capacity as Dr Thompson will work full time (Dr Keast is 3/4 time) and Dr Tom Morgan will be increasing from 3/4 time to full time.

6. Learning Disability Health and Wellbeing Drop-in

Rosie Barker helped organise a West Berkshire 'health and wellbeing' drop-in event for patients with Learning disabilities in June which was a success.

We have 'Recovery in Mind' running a group 'introduction' session here at the surgery on 13th September to give more information on what they do and the free course they offer. The evening has been advertised on facebook, our website, posters in the surgery and opportunistically telling patients - places must be booked, by calling reception.

7. Cancer Screening

The uptake for the various cancer screening programmes is normally very good at the surgery. There is some concern, however, that the number of new cases coming forward is much lower than usual

8. Community Pharmacy Consultation Service

This is a new national scheme to refer patients with certain minor illnesses directly to a pharmacy. Reception have now received training and may start to refer patients where

appropriate, although it is not expected to be many. The most common ailments so referred seem to be head lice and worms.

9. Electronic Prescribing Service

Went live on 14th July. Going well so far. Messages on Facebook, website and online access sites. Reception asking for / checking 'nominated pharmacy' when issuing repeats, and texting patients / handing out slips when patients collect prescription (or token) advising that we're not using EPS and to contact chosen pharmacy to nominate them to receive future prescriptions. If a 'primary nomination' is not set, the prescription will still go electronically and can be pulled down by any chemist of the patient's choice - they can take a 'token' from us instead of the actual prescription. Patients with repeat medication on our 'automatic' system are still being moved over, these do not go electronically so continue to be printed prescriptions.

There were a number of questions from PPG members about the EPS. It was felt that the message on the surgery website was unclear. People with 6-monthly repeat prescriptions would not be automatically moved over. It will be possible to request a further month's supply if, for example, one is going on holiday. Patients can request a paper prescription. Patients can now use the surgery pharmacy.

10. Any Other Business

Dr Keast was asked if the surgery would consider providing a coffee machine in the waiting area. He felt that this might not be a good idea as it might result in anomalous blood pressure readings

The surgery had been unsuccessful in applying for a grant to improve the approach to the access ramp at the front of the surgery. It was agreed that Sarah Dixon and Doreen Hawkins would meet with Rosie Barker to discuss alternative ways forward

The PPG will be holding another Art Café on Saturday 10th September in the Old Stables in Whitchurch. Sarah asked that people make a note in their diary. She asked for help on the day, for cakes, and for raffle prizes, and said that she would email the PPG with details. Any money raised will go towards improving the disabled access

Date of next two meetings

The date of the next meeting was fixed at 13 October - later amended to 12 October so that Dr Woolley can attend, as Dr Keast will be on sabbatical

We also set a date of Thursday 8 December, which will be our final meeting with Dr Keast

