

BLUEBELL SURGERY PATIENT REFERENCE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 12.30pm

PRESENT: Tony Watson Chairman, Mike Gunning, John Watts, Bill Anderson and Jane Frost (Practice Manager).

1. Welcome/Apologies:

Apologies from: Lisa and Roy – nothing from Mike Fletcher

2. Minutes of last meeting (25/04/18)

Minutes of last meeting approved by Tony and seconded by John.

3. Matters arising from last minutes

Tony wished to congratulate Dan on the birth of his son from the group.

MG asked about appointments and asked if there were still bookable appointments as he thought that how it was stated in the minutes that there were only appointments on the day. Jane reiterated that patients could still book at least 6 weeks in advance if they needed to. However, there are more appointments available on the day as that seems to be what is required at the moment.

Bill wanted to discuss about antibiotics and felt that because we were being asked not to give them that this was a cost cutting exercise. I tried to explain that it was the overuse of antibiotics that had caused those higher up to enforce this upon us as they are not working and research is trying to find alternatives. He has big concerns for the youngsters with how the NHS is being dealt with at the moment. He feels that it is being taken over by other organisations and will eventually be non-existent in the form we now know.

Much discussion was had over this and we all felt that it is a worrying time not knowing how it is going to evolve. However, the NHS has been through many changes so we will have to wait and see what happens.

Discussions were held around the email Jane sent out regarding CHUFT wanting to charge for parking at the WIC/NCHC once all the services from the ECH had moved over. No-one was happy about this as that is one of the reasons people go to the WIC as they do not have to pay to park as they do not know how long they will be there. Jane explained that she found this out at a Practice Managers meeting from the Manager of the NCHC who was not happy with the fact that they were not involved in any discussion regarding this. Jane will let the group know if she hears anything further.

John asked if Jane had heard anything more regarding ECH and when it was all going to be moved across. Nothing has been forthcoming as yet, but she does know that it is dependent on how the refurbishment of the WIC building goes to accommodate the new services. This

building had been mainly used as offices so a lot of changes would need to be made before specialised services can move there.

4. Surgery Updates

Tony had asked for the extended hours to be discussed. Jane explained that this was the extra extended hours that every surgery needs to be undertaking by October 2018. As we are a very small surgery and unable to be compliant with this we have asked the NCHC to assist us with enabling patients to go there to be seen on one evening a week and one day over the weekend. At the moment we are still organising the times at this will happen. What will happen when a patient books in to one of these appointments is it will send them an SMS message stating that it will be at the NCHC and not at the surgery. The receptionist will also reiterate to the patient that this is where they will need to go. They are on the same clinical system as us and, therefore, will be able to see the patients' record to ensure continuity of care. We are not the only surgery using the NCHC as it is known that Highwoods surgery will be using them.

Jane then gave the group the sad news that Dan was going to be leaving the practice. We have placed an advert locally, but as yet have had no takers. He is looking for a partnership, which at the moment is not being offered by Dr Chandel. He is looking to leave at the end of September, but we will have to see what happens as to how we will cover appointments which may be with locums until we are able to find the right candidate. It is difficult at the moment to recruit as many surgeries are losing GPs due to retirements and stress etc.

Jane will keep all informed when there is any progress.

The group wish to say "how saddened they were by this news as Dr Aref has been a very good GP".

5. AOB

MG asked about the spirometer and what it was actually used for. Jane explained that it was for our asthma/COPD patients when a more precise reading was required of their lung capacity. This is usually undertaken by Angela when the GP has asked for it.

The first batch of flu injections hopefully will be arriving on the 14th September, but everyone required to have these will be informed in the usual way, by text or when they attend the surgery. We will be having further supplies on the 28th September, 5th October and special flu injections for the over 65yrs on 15th October.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm

The next meeting will be Wednesday 24th October at 12.30 at the surgery.