

# The Meads Patients' Participation Group



Minutes of the Extraordinary PPG Committee meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 via Zoom from 2 to 2.50pm.

**Present:** Peter Griggs (Chairman), Jenny Eadon (Deputy Chairman), Merrill Plowman (Secretary), Gabriella Paterson-Griggs and Caroline Penman.

Also in attendance: Charlotte Luck (Practice Manager),

**Apologies:** Ian Muldoon, Carolyn Muldoon, Dr Duckworth and Chrissy Montgomery (Reception Supervisor).

## Practice Report

COVID-19 - CL reported that the Practice was now on stage 3 of the COVID-19 plan which incorporated the restarting of the additional services such as ear irrigation and general minor surgery that had had to be stopped during lockdown due to being non urgent. The numbers of patients visiting the surgery were still being limited and temperatures still being taken before being allowed in. It was noted that only a very small number of visitors had objected to having their temperature taken on their arrival to the surgery. If a visitor to the surgery refuses to have their temperature taken they will not be able to enter due to the overriding need to mitigate the risk of covid to all patients and staff.

Hot Zone – if a patient is suspected of having coronavirus or has any of the coronavirus symptoms a clinician will liaise with the patient as to whether it is appropriate for them to be seen at the surgery. Special arrangements are in place such as these patients will enter and exit the surgery via a different entrance to everybody else and they are seen in a dedicated room by clinicians wearing full PPE. The room is then deep cleaned.

Anti-body testing – it was noted that the Practice was the first in East Sussex to have all its staff tested for COVID-19 antibodies and that all staff came back as nil indicating none of the staff had had coronavirus.

Staffing – Paramedic Paul has left the practice opting to work for a surgery in his home town. The existing paramedics have increased their hours to cover. A new clerical assistant is due to start on 7 September.

Appointments – currently the waiting time for a GP appointment is 2 weeks, this is longer than it has been due to August staff holidays. As many consultations as possible are taking place via the phone. The number of appointments with the nurses have reduced due to the need to include a thorough clean of the room and equipment between each person. Those members of the Group who had had appointments during this time reported that they had gone very smoothly and that the support for those patients being shielded was very good.

## Flu Appointments

CL reported that she had been part of the CCG Sussex Flu Board that had worked on risk assessments etc for putting on flu clinics. The procedures for the flu appointments at The Meads were outlined and the Group wholeheartedly supported them and concurred that the additional costs being incurred were necessary to ensure the health and safety of patients and staff was maintained at all times.

CP suggested that the committee explore ways that it could raise funds in order to help the Practice meet these costs. **ACTION: Ian**

Patients who were eligible for the vaccines were being contacted via SMS and letter as well as the appointments being advertised in the PPG newsletter and on the website. It was also noted that vaccinations for pneumococcal and shingles were also being offered at the same time to those who were eligible. For those with mobility issues drive through appointments were available.

It was noted that only those persons who meet the NHS criteria for flu immunisation were able to have a flu vaccination at the surgery and unfortunately those that didn't would have to visit a pharmacy for a private injection.

With regards to flu vaccinations for children CL explained that the vaccines for children could not be ordered until later in the week so to date no dates had been set for those clinics to take place as it was unknown when the deliveries would be taking place.

TR Fastenings have kindly agreed to allow patients to use its car park (at their own risk) on the Saturdays of flu appointments.

The dates of the flu appointments are as follows:

Saturday 12th September

Friday 18th September

Saturday 19th September

Saturday 17th October

Saturday 24th October

Consideration is being given to committee members being on standby to assist with marshalling.

### **Uckfield Dementia Forum – Sunflower Initiative**

PJG explained about the Uckfield Sunflower Lanyard Initiative which was an Uckfield Dementia Forum (which the PPG is a member of) project being supported by Wealden District Council. He explained that the Sunflower Lanyards are a national scheme that individual businesses or areas then adopt and promote. The lanyards are a discreet way of letting people know that the wearer has a hidden disability. They are not just for those that live with dementia.

CP suggested that the scheme be promoted to the local BBC and ITV media channels.

**ACTION: Peter**

CL requested that the surgery have some lanyards that could then be given out to appropriate patients. **ACTION: Peter**

### **Date and time of next meeting**

To be agreed