

Patient Participation Group Meeting – By Videoconference

Tuesday 17th November 2020, 6.00 p.m.

Seaford Medical Practice

Minutes

Attendees: Sue Smith (Chair), Susan Hewer, Penny Lower, Sandy Richards, Des Prichard, Steve Machan, John Edson, Louise Asari (East Sussex CCG), Dr Dan Elliott (SMP), Phil Abbott (SMP), Lorraine Downey (SMP)

Apologies: David Burleigh, Pam Burleigh, Peter Norman, Zena Gibbs, Roy Dobson, Maggie Chitty, Min Stone, Christina Machan, Myrtle Kracke, Ruth Mitchell, Gill Allen, Val Callon and Dr Palo Almond

1. Welcome:

- 1.1.** SS welcomed everyone to the meeting. LD will take brief notes of the meeting, which will be circulated to members and posted on the Practice website in the usual way
- 1.2.** The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. SH mentioned that CI had enquired at the September meeting about whether the number of consultations is the same as pre-COVID; this is covered in Section 3 below. The action points from the meeting had been completed

2. Presentation by Louise Ansari, East Sussex CCG Governing Body, Member for Public & Patient Engagement

- 2.1.** LA joined the newly-formed East Sussex CCG in April 2020, with specific responsibility for championing public and patient engagement. She has had a career in communications and engagement including roles in local and national government, and in health bodies and charities including Diabetes UK. Louise is an experienced board member, having served on the board of the Medical Research Foundation amongst other governance roles. Louise is currently the Director of Communications at

the Centre for Ageing Better, and is a published author. Louise is passionate about great communications and engagement helping to shape services and policy, and giving people the information they need to keep healthy and enjoying all stages of life.

- 2.2. LA is keen to attend the PPG meetings for a number of general practices to see first-hand how they work. SMP is the first PPG meeting she has attended.

3. Update and News from SMP

- 3.1. Seasonal flu vaccinations: PA talked about the current uptake of the seasonal flu vaccine, which currently to date, SMP have vaccinated 6200 patients and Pharmacists had vaccinated 400 patient. This was considerably higher than the same time last year. SH commented on how well organised the Flu Clinics had been with the current difficulties and Social Distancing. SS advised that she felt the clinics had been extremely safe and well organised

- 3.2. COVID-19 update:

- 3.2.1. DE advised that the number of cases were increasing both nationally and within Sussex
- 3.2.2. DE also spoke about the challenges the Practice had to overcome due to the COVID situation. For example, just this week several members of staff are having to self-isolate, including both Paramedics and 3 GPs
- 3.2.3. PA shared an update about the potential Covid 19 vaccine. The situation is fast moving and currently is changing on an almost-daily basis. Currently the CCG and Local Authorities are looking at a few Mass Vaccination Sites across Sussex. The Practice has been asked to be involved in this very important role out, but currently we do not feel that we can stay open 7 days a week, 12 hours a day as is required, due to the current pressures on the GPs and nurses, but SMP and Old School Surgery are keen to support the role out of the Covid 19 Vaccine in other ways. JE asked if PA could keep the Council informed. PA said that once the position is better understood and more certain, he would be happy to do this

3.2.4. SM asked whether local pharmacists would be able to help with the Covid vaccine or the flu vaccinations for the cohort of patients 50 -64 years. PA said guidance is still awaited from NHS England re 50 -64 pts flu vaccines, but felt that local pharmacists would be able to be involved, depending on the availability of flu vaccine stock

3.3. GP and Practice workload:

3.3.1. DE discussed the workload of the GPs and the number of patient contacts that they are currently dealing with. Most consultations are being done by telephone / video calls and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. There has been an increase in the number of face-to-face consultations, where it is viewed as being clinically necessary. GPs remain as busy as ever! The nursing team see a high proportion of patients face-to-face. DE also mentioned that SMP had increased the clinical team with: the recruitment of a New Salaried GP, Dr Nikesh Parek, who joined in August; a First Contact Practitioner working across both Seaford Practices since September; a Practice Pharmacist working across both Seaford Practices for the past few months

3.4. Early diagnosis of cancer: DE shared with the PPG the work that SMP and Old School Surgery are progressing as part of the Primary Care Network initiative. SH felt it would be good to put a summary of the work on the Practice website – **action DE**

3.5. PA shared the news that he will be retiring on 30th June 2021. The process for appointing his successor has just commenced

4. Practice Website

4.1. SH advised that she and CI had reviewed the Practice website. They felt the website was a good source of information and quite comprehensive. They had a few suggestions where the website could be updated. SH will email PA with updates and suggestions – **action SH**

5. Proposed Seaford Health Hub:

5.1 PA advised that, as shared at September's PPG Meeting, as far as the two Seaford Practices were concerned, following LDC's decision, the project to develop a health hub in Seaford is now ended

6 Referral Pathways:

6.1 PL asked for clarification regarding referrals routes for eyes and dental problems. DE advised that the Minor Eye Conditions (MECs) clinics are still open in Seaford. Patients could be directed to MECs by a member of SMP's Reception team via care navigation.

6.2 With regard to cataracts, GPs or Opticians via a GP can refer a patient to secondary care (hospitals), but are not involved beyond this point

6.3 GPs are not involved in dental care. Some patients have sought GP advice when dentists were closed due to COVID, but this is not an area GPs can help with

7 Any Other Business;

7.1 Nothing raised

8 Review of the meeting:

8.1 SS asked LA for any feedback or comments on the meeting. LA said she was very impressed at the range of the conversation and the openness of the discussions and thanked the members for welcoming her.

8.2 JE Said on behalf of the council that he would like to thank SMP for all the hard work

9 Date of next meeting: The next meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 26th January 2021, 6.00 p.m. by videoconference. PA will send out a link for the meeting via SS a couple of weeks before the meeting

Minutes: *Lorraine Downey, 27th November2020.*