

PPG Minutes 19th October 2023

Present: Tracy (Assistant Practice Manager); LL (Chair) IL (Vice-Chair) PR (Secretary) CE, JK, BW

Apologies: Dr Hobman, CR, MK, MW

LL and IL gave feedback from their meeting with Richard, the Practice Director at Bodmin Rd. Richard has been at Bodmin Rd Surgery since January and seemed committed to primary care, although he came across as not so keen for joint PPGs. He was however willing to meet up again and share information. Bodmin Rd's PPG originally had around 30 participants in their group, which increased after Richard becoming involved. They are very active having several different projects with sub-groups that meet in-between the main meetings every 2 months.

We discussed about having a PPG section in the newsletter that goes out. Pauline volunteered to do this but was happy for anyone else to take over should there be interest when numbers increase in the PPG.

Tracy stated how much of a success having the appeal for PPG volunteers during the flu vaccine drive. This enabled and freed up staff to catch up with the backlog and leave them free to carry out procedures. The volunteers said they were made to feel very welcome.

This year the flu uptake was bad and not as good as previous years. Tracy informed the group that the surgery orders the vaccines a year before based on prediction and governed by numbers of the previous year.

Due to the Government giving Pharmacies priority to administer the Covid vaccine, this not only had an impact on the Practice, but caused confusion to those who were expecting to be able to go to the surgery for their vaccine. Additionally, there were some institutions that had less than desirable practices such as pharmacies offering extra points, and others offering financial incentives if they booked and received their vaccine at those particular pharmacies.

Tracy informed us about the new Facebook page that currently is being administered by an outside organisation which although it is in its infancy, is working well. It is being moderated every hour and includes informational links.

The next health education evening will coincide with the popular 'Movember' yearly event which promotes men's health. This will be on the 28th November. Clive volunteered to give a talk and chat face to face at this event as a way of encouraging new group participants. This was welcomed as we have a shortage of men currently in the group.

We all agreed it was important that our group doesn't stagnate. We discussed re-evaluating and promoting the positives and personalising the possibilities for the future. Looking at which projects would be the most beneficial. Revisiting the purpose of the PPG as to what we need to do, and the way forward. A communication campaign to bring people in.

Tracy suggested a SurveyMonkey style questionnaire as a way of reaching out to service users. This would be a way forward of engaging to see what they want. We all agreed ideally, we would like a balance of all ages, ethnicity etc to be represented.

An action plan was put forward as follows:

Movember event: Clive giving a short talk to engage with attendees and encourage to join the PPG.

Development of the Facebook page.

Communication campaign to encourage new members through SurveyMonkey.

An extra meeting was agreed to be held on 26th October at 6:30pm to discuss the format of encouraging new members at the Movember event. This will include discussing Clive's talk: what to include and the format. How to engage with the participants of the evening and also promote the purpose of the group.

Next PPG meeting: TBA.