

MINUTES OF THE PPG MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST MARCH
AT SEAHOUSES HEALTH CENTRE

Present: RE, BS, MT, ST, AG, DC, Dr. Barth

Apologies: Judy Taylor, J. Palmer-Cooper

- 1. Sharon Spurling of Carers Northumberland came to talk to the PPG. Their remit is to support the unpaid Carers, whether that be family, friends, neighbours or anyone who cares for someone else. They have at the moment 7 staff and 25 volunteers and have bases in Hexham, Ashington and Belford at Bell View. In 2011 there were 36,500 carers in Northumberland who “care” for people more than 20 hours a week. 9,000 carers “care” more than 60 hours a week. They aim to promote opportunities outside of being a carer e.g. hobbies etc. They give advice about housing, finances, etc. They also try to give people a break from caring and run support groups around the county. Their advice and information line has over 100 calls every week. Carers can also access the Carers Support Fund which can give carers up to £100 to spend on themselves. They are trying to get specialist support groups to work with young carers. At the moment there are approximately 2,600 young carers in the county that are known to the service but there could be many more. They are working with schools to try and identify young carers**

47% of registered carers are male. They are holding events around the county specifically aimed at carers, the first one is at Alnwick Gardens pavilion on 22nd May. They also run courses for carers.

The PPG thanked Sharon for a very interesting talk and hoped she would return in the future to keep us updated on the progress they are hoping to make in this area.
- 2. Julia and Caitlin are invited to the next PPG meeting at Belford. The PPG appreciated all the hard work done by the practice team and especially Practice Manager Lorraine Douglas in ensuring that the transition to the new computer system took place as smoothly as possible.**
- 3. Matters Arising**

RE spoke to Belford Dental Practice and it is highly likely that the practice will be going private. The NHS have been extremely difficult in negotiating a new contract with the dental surgery.
- 4. CCG**

Anne is going to the meeting on 23rd March in Bondgate. MT going to the next meeting at Blyth on June 22nd.
- 5. CQC GP Insight Report**

The practice are happy with the report. The CQC is paid thousands by the practice every year to come to the practice every three years. The PPG congratulated the surgery on a good report.

6. Update from Practice

Lorraine is updating the practice website and she is happy to receive any comments from members.

7. BMEF

Vacancies for Trustees. BS has approached two people from Belford who may be interested in joining.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 31st May at Belford at 2pm then Tuesday 18th July at Seahouses at 2pm