

## Belford Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

### Minutes of a meeting at Seahouses Surgery

Tuesday, 18 July, 2017 at 2.00

1. **Apologies:** Joy Palmer Cooper, Anne Gladstone, Fiona Reid, Emma Miller, Judy Brown/Taylor, Dennis Cromarty, Stuart and Elaine Robertson, Gillian Jones (new member)
2. **Present:** Rosemary Ellis, Marjorie Turner, Brenda Stanton, Sheena Trotter, Dr Caitlin Longster
3. **Dr Caitlin Longster** introduced herself to the group. She first worked at the Practice as a Registrar and continued as a part-time GP. Since Dr Gill's retirement, she has taken on his 'stint' at the Practice. She lives in Morpeth and enjoys walking, music, family... On two Sundays per month she works at North Tyneside A&E.
4. **Minutes of last meeting** – draft minutes 21 March, 2017: circulated by e mail
5. **Clinical Commissioning Group Locality meetings:** minutes of last meeting and associated papers forwarded by email. Kelvin Rushworth, (CCG member), also forwarded health links via Alan Bell and these have been forwarded to PPG members.

NHS want to offer extended access in Primary Health care from 8am until 8pm in addition to Northern Doctors. GPs will sign new contracts in 2020 and this may be included. Northumberland is in the early stages of introducing this and trying to raise funding.

MT attended meeting for PPG and reported back about a health meeting organised by Rotary that she attended. Anne Gladstone has volunteered to attend the next CCG meeting.

RE and BS will try to meet AG before the next meeting, so that she can give a short presentation about the Belford Group.

**6. BMEF:** minutes of last meeting - 12 July- not available yet. RE and AG attended. RE summarised the meeting:

**Health kiosk:** online demonstration still not available.

**PPG membership:** RE had expressed concerns about lack of PPG members and about attracting new members who will stay and be effective, (See 7 below). BMEF has similar problems and it had been suggested that BMEF and PPG should amalgamate. Discussion followed. BS to prepare summary about pros and cons to include with minutes. Agenda item at next meeting. Responses from all members would be considered.

## **7. Where are we now? Review of PPG membership, activities...**

There are less than 20 real and virtual members. Initially, PPG had been involved with NHS England and NHS North of Tyne about concerns that would diminish the service received by patients but since the advent of the north area CCG there had been less need.

## **8. AOB:**

Belford Practice: 3<sup>rd</sup> in North and 20<sup>th</sup> as a whole – improved since last year. LD

## **9. Date of next meeting: September 6, 2pm at Belford**

**Project Sri Lanka: addressing critical health issues in a developing country.** A general interest presentation by Professor Joy Palmer Cooper

## **Patient Participation Group (PPG) and Belford Medical Equipment Fund (BMEF)**

Both groups have low numbers at present and a merger of the two groups has been suggested as a solution to the problem. This was discussed at the last PPG meeting and it was agreed that a paper should be sent to members indicating the thoughts of those present at the meeting.

**This is a discussion document and your views are welcome.**

**PPG** is made up of patients from Belford Practice, including Seahouses, and the wider area. The group meets 6 times per year: three times in Seahouses and three in Belford. There is a virtual group: this group receives the same information as the 'real' group and can comment on Agenda issues and attend meetings, if possible.

The aims and objectives are:

- To allow liaison between patients and practice through this group
- To inform patients – about the Practice but also about wider medical matters and health issues
- To liaise with outside bodies on behalf of the patients and the practice

In the past, the Practice has asked the advice of the group about correspondence, furnishings, 'threats' to services such as the dispensary...the group has organised patient surveys, open meetings, written to MPs, NHS...

The Group is autonomous and decides the Agenda/activities - though members of the Practice are invited to attend every meeting

Representatives from the group attend locality meetings of the Clinical Commissioning Group, along with members from other PPGs, four times per year, to hear about and discuss various topics.

**BMEF** is a Charity that was set up to receive bequests and donations from patients and/or their relatives. Members are Trustees and

include Practice doctors, staff members and members of the community. It is registered with the Charity Commission.

BMEF meets three times per year in Belford. Three members of PPG regularly attend meetings and take part in discussions but are not Trustees.

The Trustees consider requests from the Practice for items not normally available from NHS that can be used to improve patient care/experience.

BMEF includes report from PPG on Agenda

### **A few more thoughts from the last PPG meeting:**

Both groups have a common general aim – to enhance patient experience and offer the best service possible in this rural location.

A merger would make a viable group

BMEF have offered to meet more often.

BMEF have meetings in evening.

PPG meet in afternoon.

Is a merger possible/desirable given differences?

Autonomy of PPG could be compromised by presence of GPs/Practice staff – though some GPs or Practice Manager attend meetings.

Easier to arrange liaison and informing patients if groups merged.