

BELFORD Medical Practice PPG, met at Belford.

July 10th 2019

Present: Rosemary Ellis (Chair), Dennis Cromarty, Jack Arrowsmith, Stuart Robertson, Marjorie Turner, Anne Gladstone (minute taker) Dr Emma Miller joined us.

Apologies: Brenda Stanton, Ron and Sue Pearson, Sheena Trotter, Joy Palmer Cooper.

Minutes of the last meeting have not yet been received; in the pipeline.

R.E. and B.S. have met Lorraine regarding the issues raised at the last meeting: how the Practice and PPG can best work together.

See Appendix 1 from today's Agenda for details:

RE Students: it was noted that G.P. Practices are not paid for having students on placement as much as Hospitals are; 40% less. E.M. will continue with Registrar training.

RE Public Health Campaigns: Obesity, advice on healthy eating and Exercise are topics to be covered. E.g. the G.P.s can already prescribe exercise at local Centres.

RE Website: E.M. noted that the new Belford Medical Practice website be checked out. Part of the PPG's role could be acting as another conduit, for minor queries and misunderstandings/ complaints, between patients and the Practice. In particular new patients to the area might not be aware of how systems work or who to contact in the event of a nonmedical query.

RE Information sharing: discussion about having a public meeting to note the services available; thought that the PPG need to have something to show what it is that we do / can do; this work requires time and thought, starting with Dr Barth and a colleague coming to talk to the PPG in the Autumn about the possibility of forming focus groups on different topics. J.A. suggested that different PPG members could involve themselves in a specific area of interest.

PHYSIO SERVICES: E.M. reported that the IMAX service has been discontinued as it was thought not equitable throughout the whole of the county; replaced by JMSAP (Joint Muscular and Skeletal Pain Service). Patients now self refer. Information Leaflets are available in the Practice waiting rooms for patients to take away. When contacted by a patient there is an initial conversation with a Physio in order to assess the problem and decide the future direction of treatment. No Consultant's appointment or MRI is ordered until the patient has gone through this new procedure.

The G.P. is kept aware of action going forward by the Physio contacting them.

Seahouses Physio is still in operation but obviously under severe pressure. Decisions regarding treatment which were already passed by IMAX are honoured.

PPG members were urged by E.M. to report back to the PPG any frustrations/ difficulties that they become aware of.

DEFIBRILLATORS: these need to be outwith the main villages as well as in centres; D.C. noted that he had talked to Belford

village Coop last year about locating a machine outside the shop as there had been an offer of a Defibrillator via Bellview, but that although the decision to have one had been welcomed by the Shop Manager after it had been referred to another level of management nothing had progressed.

Current locations of machines are known to be at: North Sunderland Hostel, Seahouses Ocean Club and Lifeboat Station, Bellview, Lowick Shop.

There is not one on Seahouses Main Street.

Discussion about possible locations for future defibs require research: R.E. to check out Beadnell and Bamburgh; E.M. noted that a patient at Haggerston has done training on the machines and is interested in helping; she will forward patient's contact details to A.G.

This issue of Defibrillator machine availability and visible location is an important one; the general public needs to be aware of them. BMEF also requests confirmation of this issue

AOB: RE the Medical Practice area: E.M. reported that there are geographical zones where the Practice operates (an inner and outer) and will check that this info is clear on the Practice website. The expansion and numbers of new house building locally has prompted the Practice Team to adapt / alter the workforce in order to cover patient requirements (e.g. the recruitment of Dr Hills).

E.M. stated that all practices must now be part of a G.P. Primary Care Network (Government instruction) which

includes different locations; Belford is now in with one practice from Rothbury, one from Coquet, two from Wooler, two from Berwick, one from Widdrington and two from Morpeth.

This grouping now requires a “super “overarching PPG; it was suggested by our group that if each local PPG send one member to participate that they can then report back to Belford PPG.

This decision to be circulated to all members; comments welcome/ needed as to how we go about it.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tues 24th September at Seahouses
Dr Barth and colleague to attend re the Obesity and Health Campaigns.