



ASHOVER MEDICAL CENTRE
MINUTES OF PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING ON 5th MAY 2022
AT ASHOVER VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendees, apologies and welcomes

Present: Gordon Johnson (Chairman), Dr Emmerson, Elaine Armitage, Sue Burn, Jose Rogers, James Miller, Mike Thomas, Colin Seeds and Robert Webster.

Apologies: William Armitage, Liz Banner, Bernard Everett, Zoe Renshaw and Helen Sharman.

The Chairman reported that Liz Banner was retiring after many years as the Ashover Practice Manager. This was earlier than planned but the workload and stress of the past two years had taken its toll. The Chairman expressed a vote of thank to Liz and sent best wishes for a well-earned and peaceful retirement. The Chairman also welcomed James Miller as a member of the PPG.

The Chairman also welcomed Lee Rowley, MP for North East Derbyshire. He had agreed to attend to help lead a discussion on the future development of Health and Social Care as the NHS comes out of the Pandemic

2. To formally receive and approve the Patients' Charter.

The meeting was reminded that at the last meeting the Doctors proposed the publication of a 'Patients' Charter' which would set out, in the post Pandemic era, the services that patients could reasonably expect from the Practice and, in return, what the Practice can reasonably expect from its patients. It was agreed that the PPG should be consulted but emphasised that that the Charter was a Practice Document. The Chairman reported that a first draft had been circulated and thanked members who made comments and suggestions. The Document was redrafted, and the final version had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

The PPG welcomed the document and unanimously endorsed it. The Chairman reported that the Charter will be placed on the Practice's Facebook page for those who want to download it. He also reported that he had also wrote a short report from the PPG for inclusion in the Annual Parish Report which refers to the Charter on the Practice's website.

3. The future of Health and Social Care post Pandemic

The Chairman welcomed Lee Rowley who last joined the Group in 2018 before the Pandemic. He reported that the Health and Care Bill has been passed into law. It involves a further partial reorganisation of the health service particularly in relation the CCG's. He also noted that the income from the new Health and Social Care tax will be used to meet the immediate post Covid challenges in the NHS. It was to be hoped that once met the funds will find their way to Social Care. However, he admitted that hospitals might fight to retain the funds to meet their recruitment issues. He also recognised that Care Homes had real problems recruiting staff because of very low levels of pay.

Dr Emmerson commented that nationally the promised increase in the number of GP's had not materialised as the number of new recruits, a large proportion of which were overseas graduates, are not covering the loss of GPs from retirement. However, Dr Emmerson commented that recruiting staff to the Matlock Practice had not proved difficult. He also commented on the policy of outsourcing of services and in particular Prescription Reviews. Currently for Matlock it is being undertaken by a pharmacist working out of a Preston Pharmacy who has never been to the Surgery or met any staff. Also, home visits are increasingly being covered by Paramedics. He agreed services can reduce costs but do put at risk continuity of care; many GP's want to retain their autonomy, manage the health of their patients and not be reduced to dealing with just acute illnesses. Lack of time is a real issue, and the rising number of mental health issues is a real and growing concern.

Jose who works in mental health reported that the system is crumbling. The staff with whom she works are wonderful but cannot cope and are not getting support and increasingly seeing contracts going out to third parties. Lee stated the four years spent on Brexit had turned people's heads and Health and Social Care policies had lost their focus. He reaffirmed the policy that mental health should have parity of esteem with physical health and would report the concerns heard to his colleagues in the Department of Health.

In concluding Jo Gordon raised the fact that Ukrainian refugees in our area who had visited our surgeries often had serious physical illnesses for which they needed a special medical assessment of needs but could not be referred to the hospital as they do not have a NHS Number. Lee asked for details of these cases as his colleagues in the Department of Health have not acknowledged there is a problem and agreed he would take these cases further.

The discussion closed with a vote of thanks to Lee Rowley for giving his time and listening to the issues being raised; it was a productive and much appreciated meeting.

4. Conclusion

The meeting closed at 8.30 with a vote of thanks to all that attended. The date of the next meeting would be circulated shortly.