



Minutes of PPG Meeting at Firs House 6th September 2016

1. **Present:** Fei-Ni Toole (Chair), Dr. Simon Poole, Sue Cox, Sue Lee, Colin Lock, Olga Starobinskaya, Eileen Wilson, John Morris, Lauren Allin, Colin Eagleton, Ian Copeland, Anna Hamilton, Helen Graham, Pam Lumsden.
Apologies: Denis Payne, Anonymous Member.

2. **Draft minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes were accepted as accurate. There were no matters arising.

3. **NHS/Practice Up-date (SP)**

The GP Federation comprising 18 GP Practices in the area with a total of 270,000 patients, has been incorporated. In principle this should give them a greater voice and influence at the NHS local and national tables. The Federation could also in theory, bid for any tenders for services put out by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), but the local CCG is severely financially challenged at present, which means that their capacity to fund new initiatives is also hampered.

The NHS Local Commissioning Group meetings, which Dr. Michael Grande attended as a GP representative has been discontinued for financial reasons.

In many instances, medication is available to buy “over the counter” at a pharmacy at a cheaper price than the cost of a prescription, with the exception of those exempt from paying prescription charges. NHS England are encouraging patients to buy these drugs at their pharmacy rather than ask their GP for a prescription, as it will help to reduce the substantial NHS deficit. Although the cost of prescriptions is paid for out of the national NHS budget, any reduction in expenditure will ultimately benefit services the NHS can fund, affecting all patients.

4. **Practice Manager Up-date (OS)**

The new trainee doctors have taken up their post at the Practice. The Practice has always been committed to the placement of trainee doctors at the surgeries, and provide them with the necessary GP training and tutorial support. The PPG members valued the Practice’s contribution to new doctor training, recognizing the additional workload it places on GPs.

Flu Vaccination clinics at the surgeries will commence 23rd September, for eligible patients, including pre-school children aged 2-5 years who are given a nasal spray.

Dr. Sharp will be the locum GP for the Practice from October. Locums are qualified, self-employed GPs who provide additional GP services to a number of local practices where these may be required to cover holidays, sickness absence, peaks in demand for GP appointments etc. All local GP practices use the same pool of GP locums, so demand for their services at any one time may outstrip the availability of locums.



Accessibility issues:

- All consulting rooms will be provided with chairs that have arms.
- Provision of a handrail halfway up the stairs at Firs House, is being investigated. A rail across the window would impede emergency access by the fire service. Any patient who is unable to go to the first floor, can be seen on the ground floor.
- Gravel in the carpark cannot be replaced with hard standing as a number of large protected trees on the grounds have roots which extend onto the car park area.
- A clear sign to the accessible toilet at Firs House has been put up.

The Practice will work with the PPG and continue to review accessibility at their surgeries.

5. Review of PPG Terms of Reference

PPG Terms of Reference were reviewed a year earlier than required, bringing it in line with the PPG Code of Conduct review. **Action: FNT**

6. Community Events Up-date

Health and Wellbeing: Impington Village College (IVC)

SL and LA were thanked for the excellent analysis of student responses to a survey on healthcare provision awareness and student health needs. SP will share the findings with Practice partners as it raises a number of points that are worthy of further discussion. **Action: SP**

Understanding Dementia event will be held on **Tuesday, October 11th at Histon Baptist Church, Station Road**. Doors open and refreshments available from 7.00p.m. presentations and Q&A 7.30p.m. - 9.00p.m.

Cottenham Community Centre Open Day 10th October

SC will have a table with some information about the PPG and community events.

7. AOB

Hospital Transport - responsibility for arranging non-emergency hospital transport no longer rests with the surgery, but is arranged through a central booking system: Tel. 0845 603 8117 Mon – Fri 08.00 – 18.30. This information is also publicised at both surgeries and on the Practice website.

Next meeting: Tuesday 1st November, 6.15p.m.