

JUNCTION MEDICAL PRACTICE

PPG MEETING – Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 1830

At 18 Dartmouth Park Hill, NW5 1HL

Minutes

Present: Dr Heskell Kateb (HK), Dr Renu Hans (RH), (GP Partners), Mr Jim Knox (JK) (Practice Manager), Mrs Christina Kateb (CK), Admin and Minor Surgery Nurse.

8 Members

Apologies for Absence: 5 Members

Action

1. Welcome. JK welcomed everyone to the meeting and he thanked them for attending. He pointed out that 50 invitations had been sent out by letter/email to PPG members and notices had been displayed in both Practice Buildings and on the Practice Website a month in advance and it was disappointing that so few patients had attended let alone replied to the invitation – only 5 apologies had been received.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 5 February 2019. These had been distributed and posted on the Website after the Meeting and again before today's Meeting.

3. Matters Arising.

a. With reference to Paragraph 3, JK pointed out that the Surgery times were now displayed in Reception at both sites.

JK

b. Carers. JK stated that Mr Bennett had not submitted his ideas for help and provision for carers and was unfortunately not present at today's meeting.

JK

4. Primary Care Networks.

a. Dr Hans explained that the Practice was now part of the "Northern Primary Care Network" (PCN) which comprised 13 Practices within North Islington with a total of some 96,000 patients.

They are: The Rise Group and the Beaumont Practices (in Hornsey Rise), Stroud Green Medical Clinic, Hanley Primary Care Centre, Archway Medical Centre, Andover Medical Centre, The Village Practice, The Primary Care Centre, The Family Practice, The Gooding Practice and ourselves. There are 3 other PCNs in the Borough, 2 in the centre and one in the South.

b. The purpose is to make economies at scale and enable practices to share such expertise as Pharmacists, Psychologists and Social Prescribing Link Workers in order to enable GPs to spend more time with patients' complicated conditions than they can currently within 10 minute appointments. One Member asked whether having the Pharmacists would affect the High Street Pharmacies such as DH Roberts but it was explained that the Practice Pharmacists would be employed within practices to monitor prescribing and carry out audits in support of the Medicines Optimisation Scheme. They would have no effect on the public Pharmacies.

- c. Each PCN has a Clinical Director, who is a Senior GP within the PCN who will ensure that clinical standards are maintained and will provide a link to other PCNs within Islington. **RH**
5. Group Consultations. RH Explained that she had conducted a Group Consultation with a number of Diabetic patients who had found it useful to discuss and compare their conditions with each other. It had allowed her to see more patients in a shorter time than with individual appointments. We plan to have more Group consultations in future covering Diabetes and COPD. **RH**
6. IT.
- a. RH spoke about AccuRx which has been used in the Practice in the past few months. AccuRx is free software for GP practices in the UK, allowing anyone in an NHS practice to text a patient about anything they need. Some of the attendees had already received such messages. **RH**
- b. JK mentioned SNOMED which is an International Coding system which is replacing the old READ codes which were only used by GP Practices. SNOMED codes are used throughout the NHS in GP Practices and Hospitals etc so we are all on the same system. **JK**
7. Website. JK spoke about the new Practice Website which went live in the Summer. One member said that she had found it difficult to access the Repeat Prescription part of the Website. JK said he would look into it and ask the designer to see what could be done. He will update Members when it has been sorted out. **JK**
8. Flu Season 2019/20. This is now under way! The vaccines for the over 65s are already here and those for the under 65s will be here from 07 October. We are running clinics every Monday and Tuesday from 1330 to 1500 and on Saturdays from 0900 to 1300. Patients can just walk in – no need to book but of course it is possible to make appointments for other times to suit. **All**
9. PPG Participation. We welcome all patients who wish to join us. Details are on the Website. We do ask all please to send us your email addresses if possible but we quite understand that many people do not have access to emails. We do need more members, especially the young and an ethnic mix. It was suggested that we have a facebook account – this will be looked in to. **JK**
10. Memorandum of Understanding. Thank you to all members who have signed the MoU. **JK**
11. Any Other Business. One Member asked about changes to Patient Transport. In fact, the only change, which will not affect patients, is in the way it is booked by GP practices – centrally to a call centre rather than to individual hospitals. **All**
12. The meeting closed at 2000 after which patients stayed for further refreshments and Informal discussions.