

ESTUARY GROUP PRACTICE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

MINUTES IN RESPECT OF MEETING HELD AT GOWERTON HEALTH CENTRE

2.30PM WEDNESDAY 17th July 2024

1. Welcome & apologies.

The following members of the group were present: Pamela Dobson (PD) chair; Paul Evans (PE) secretary; Kim Creaser (KC); Caroline Pierlejewski (CP); Nigel Pierlejewski (NP); Jude Biss (JB).

EGP was represented by Barry Matthews (BM) and Dr. Robin Spacie (RS).

2. Agree minutes of previous meeting

Minutes for the previous meeting were accepted.

3. EPG follow up re disabled access:

BM reported that signs for disabled access have been ordered. He will investigate the confusing number of doorbells for disabled access at the rear of the surgery. He will also investigate any available health board funding schemes for improved disabled access, including a sliding door. It was pointed out that in the current economic climate, such schemes seemed unlikely.

4. PPG contact update; Website – NP; Other PPG's experience – PD

There was a discussion as to whether a specific PPG website was desirable, particularly as creation and hosting would incur costs that the EPG does not have.

PD has been in contact with other PPGs. The North Cardiff Medical Centre PPG, which has been running for 20 years, has a sub-site within the centre's own website -

<https://www.northcardiffmedicalcentre.co.uk/patient-participation-group>.

PE said he would investigate whether the Health Unlocked social network platform <https://about.healthunlocked.com/> would be a suitable site to create a presence.

5. Any Other Business.

There was discussion as to why patients registered at one surgery, Penybryn in this instance, should be sent to Gowerton for a nurse appointment. Patients who rely on public transport are considerably disadvantaged due to a lack of or incompatible bus service.

BM said that there is just one full time and one part time nurse within the group. He said that EPG was an exception in the locality in having a full service at Gowerton's two satellite centres - Penclawdd and Penybryn - whereas other groups had part time service at their satellites. This means that the EPG service is spread rather thinly, particularly when annual leave is taken.

Recruitment of new PPG members.

There was discussion as to whether PPG members with poor attendance of meetings should be replaced by new members.

Also, as to whether to expand the numbers of PPG members. Whilst the group was divided on this, it is not presently recruiting new members, but encourages those wishing to declare an interest to make contact.

PE said he'd make a comments box to be placed at Gowerton surgery.

Next meeting - 18th September 2024.