

GREAT STAUGHTON SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

MINUTES

Meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022 – 6pm – The White Hart, Great Staughton

1. **Welcome:** The Chair, David Gent, welcomed all those present and also Dr Stuart Shields who had come to talk to us about surgery matters.

Dr Shields Gave us a wide ranging talk about the NHS, including the national situation, the Huntingdon and Peterborough area situation and, probably more important to us, an overview of our surgery, how it works and how it is coping with the influx of new patients.

He explained that the rapid expansion in patient numbers was due to two things:

1. The fact that we have such a good reputation in the area for patient care and
2. The fact that the St Neots practices are having great difficulty in recruiting suitable staff and so are struggling to provide good care.

Up to the present the larger numbers have not posed a huge problem, but the surgery is rapidly running out of space and this will have to be addressed in the not too distant future. There may well come a time when a limit is put on new registrations.

Our practice is committed to training up and coming doctors and so we have medical students working with us. This works for both parties as it helps the students and also gives our doctors a chance to evaluate them as to whether they would be employable in our practice eventually.

The PPG had been concerned about the pressure that the increased numbers put on the staff at the surgery but Dr Shields feels that, at the moment and with careful handling, it is manageable. The main objective is good patient care with respect on both sides.

David thanked Dr Shields for giving up his time for us.

2. **Apologies:** Virginia Stirling
3. **Matters Arising :** None
4. **Membership:** Marilyn Matthews has moved away, and Paul Goldsmith has resigned due to pressure of work. We now have three vacancies on the committee.
5. a) **National Association:** we had not seen anything on the website of interest to us at this time.

b) **PPG questionnaire.** David has had about 8 responses to this resulting in a wide range of experience among our group. We now need to evaluate the best way to use this expertise. Shirley said that she would talk to Yvonne, our Social Prescriber, to see if there are any areas in which we could be of help.

6. Fundraising:

The BBQ was a great success and thanks were given to all who helped. The profit on the day was £708.70 and there was also a donation of £200.

The current balance of PPG funds is over £7000.

Christmas Raffle: We intend to have another of our annual Christmas raffles and tickets will be sold at the various flu clinics as well as at reception.

Volunteers for ticket sales are as follows:

Saturday 24th September, 9am – 1pm at the surgery: Kath Salmon and Carol Turner

Thursday 20th October 9am – 1pm at the Village Hall: Valerie Thornton, Sue Noble, Peter Parnham.

Saturday 29th October 9am – 1pm at the surgery: Mo Brown and Sue Sewell.

Thursday 17th November 6pm – 8pm at the surgery: Hazel Ainscough.

7. **Surgery Music Licence.** The surgery has to have a licence to play music in the waiting area. This has historically been paid from PPG funds and it was agreed that we should again pay this. The cost is £237.92p. It was also agreed to pay the cost of a new lamp for the treatment lamp. The cost of this is £232.00p.

8. **Surgery update:** Dr Shields had covered most things but Melanie just updated us with a few changes of staff.

Amy, a practice manager, has returned to Australia to be near her family. She is being replaced on 19th September by Lisa, who has worked for the NHS for many years, although not as a practice manager.

Lucy is the new Health Care Assistant, working 2 days per week.

The surgery has just had 3 medical students for a 2 week placement.

Dr Michael Nagieb recently started a 6 month placement with us. He is a qualified doctor who is now training to become a GP.

Another Helen has started working in the Patient Services Team.

Della, from the Patient Services Team, gave birth to a little girl last week.

The Autumn Surgery newsletter is in the pipeline and will be published in mid October.

Meeting Dates

Monday 28th November 2022

Monday 20th March 2023 (still tbc!)

Monday 19th June 2023 (still tbc!)

