

**Old Town Surgery**  
**Practice Participation Group**  
Meeting 18 April 2013 18:45

**Attending:**

(ML) Margaret Lay – Chair  
(HS) Hayley Slatter – Practice Manager  
(ES) Elaine Sullivan – Secretary  
(RF) Richard Fuller – Treasurer  
(KT) Krystyna Tworek  
(TB) Terasa Beach - Vice Chair (newly elected)  
(BB) Beryl Bowles  
Dr Heaton

Apologies from:

Dr Maggie Carson  
Dr Ben Basterfield

Virtual membership  
(email only)

**Agenda**

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Open Evening – April 24<sup>th</sup>
3. PPG Bank account - update
4. Practice Manager's update
5. AOB
6. Date of next meeting

**Welcome**

No apologies were given for the meeting.

**1. Minutes of the last meeting.**

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate reflection of the last meeting.

Update – Bus 22. HS confirmed she spoke with Paul Jenkins, MD of Thamesdown Transport. He confirmed that Swindon Borough Council have pulled funding, however the company will continue to run a service to the surgery area (excluding Asda/Link). He hopes that this is a seamless service from one sponsor to another.

**2. Open Evening – Wednesday 24 April**

It was noted that all members were in favour of funding the evening in conjunction with the GPs. Both parties were happy to contribute to the evening.

PPG reviewed the outline plan for the evening. It was suggested that the Tombola be ready for the early part of the evening when people were arriving.

The PPG members were updated on the advertising and promotion already delivered. A copy of the Swindon Adver article was circulated for information.

Dr Heaton informed the PPG that nationally a new domain was being introduced as part of the Quality Outcome Framework (QOF). This will be the National Dementia Strategy. The Open Evening has come at an opportune time for the surgery.

As part of the National Dementia Strategy, patients from various age groups and those in high risk categories, will be invited to Dementia Screening. However if all patients take up the screening there may be an issue with capacity, therefore the surgery are keen to investigate dementia screening software. This will form part of the discussions with Dr Manchip before the Evening's presentation.

Organisation on the night. All volunteers to attend from 5:30 (where possible). Room is available all day. Members were assigned jobs as follows:

TB – refreshments

HS – housekeeping

ML – speech on PPG (incl fund-raising)

RF – meet and greet

ES – meet and greet, promote PPG

BB - Tombola

ML has asked several local groups/shops for donations. HS has asked the local Lloyds chemist (next door). All donations welcome.

5 members of the Psychology group will be in attendance, as well as 2 people from the carer centre.

**ACTION:** HS to contact Swindon 105.5 (Shirley); ES to email a reminder to Jo Osario (LINK/HealthWatch)

### **3. PPG bank account RF/ML update**

Constitution and PPG membership documents to be updated to include the new members (virtual) plus the current Vice Chair vacancy. TB asked whether there would be a charge made by Nationwide if they were asked to issue a cheque on request from the account. RF/ML to investigate.

**ACTION:** ES to update documentation as per meeting.

**ACTION:** RF/ML to set up new account and report back.

### **4. Practice Manager's update**

HS informed PPG that the latest changes has been made to the OTS website (i.e. PPG, Triage, Opening Evening). Unfortunately the website is suffering

intermittent problems affecting its availability. A review of the website supplier was discussed.

The surgery are advertising for two new receptionists, with over 300 applications received for the post. These have been shortlisted to 15.

Three new members have joined the PPG as virtual members. These are Hazel Ayres, Chris Feltham and Joanne Seer. They have been added to the email contacts.

**ACTION:** PPG action – review engagement with virtual group members. Currently no feedback from these members.

Practice Survey – The results of the survey have now been collated and an end of year report will be shared with PPG members in due course. The results will be updated on the website. It has also been confirmed that DH funding will be extended for a further year for the Practice Participation Groups set up as part of the DES initiative.

At a recent meeting of One Swindon, there was discussions about the voluntary sector being instrumental in progressing Health issues as part of the NHS Health and Social Care reforms introduced last year.

#### 5. **AOB.**

Vice Chair nominations. After much discussion KT proposed TB, who was seconded by ML. TB agreed to take the Vice Chair spot.

**ACTION:** ES to update Constitution and membership documentation.

KT raised the issue of drug identification following a request from her neighbor Mr Williams. Dr Heaton explained at length the reasons why drugs appear to change in shape and colour, which is mainly one of cost. The GPs will prescribe 'generic' drugs which are in turn sourced by the pharmacies from pharmaceutical companies. They will get the cheapest 'generic' drug supplier.

The only way GPs can avoid this would be by prescribing 'named drug brands', however this has a higher cost per patient, which would cost more than the NHS could afford.

One solution may be for patients to ask for dosette boxes, which are freely available to patients. This may help with remembering what to take and when as they can be daily or weekly boxes.

**ACTION:** BB/KT to update their patient groups

BB asked Dr Heaton about the number of companies who are asking residents if they need health checks i.e. Ultrasound scans etc.

Dr Heaton confirmed that the NHS is not set up to provide pan-population screening on things like Aortic Aneurisms and other conditions that might be picked up through the use of such ultrasound scans.

These companies have merit, but the practice cannot make a recommendation. Dr Heaton doesn't have statistics on how many people have these scans and he has not seen anything positive back from sources.

22<sup>nd</sup> June 11:30 – 7am Midsummer sponsored walk in aid of Affected by Cancer (abc). BB circulated some registration and sponsorship forms. Volunteers and sponsors welcome. Please ask anyone interested to contact [abcswindon@yahoo.c.uk](mailto:abcswindon@yahoo.c.uk) for more information or look on [www.abcswindon.org](http://www.abcswindon.org)

**6. Date of next meeting:**

It was proposed that the next meeting be held on 09 May 2013 at 18:45