

Biggar Medical Practice Patient Group (PG) Minutes

Thursday 18 August 2022

1 Introduction and Welcome

In attendance: Sarah Sinclair (Chair) (SS), Barbara Duffner (BD), Donald Stewart (DS), David McMunn (DM), Tracey Forest (TF) on Teams, Kirsty Hutchinson (KH) on Teams, Jean Elliot (JE), Beth Anderson (BA) and Dr MacSween

Apologies: Gordon Cunningham (GC), Steve Harvey (SH)

2 Donald Stewart (Business Manager) Retirement.

SS conveyed the PG's gratitude to Donald for all that he had done to set up, maintain and support the Patient Group since its inception. His advice, guidance and willingness to provide information to the Group had been valuable and helped the Group understand the complexities of the world that a GP Practice operates in. A token of the PG's appreciation was given to Donald.

SS welcomed David McMunn who had joined the Practice as Business Manager replacement for Donald. Sarah hoped that she and Barbara would be able to arrange a meeting with David in the next few weeks.

SS, BD and DM to meet in the near future to note date fixed for 28 September.

3 Minutes Meeting on 12 May 2022 and Matters Arising

These were agreed.

3a Ambulance Service: It was now very clear that current problems were a reflection of national issues and not simply local. The Ambulance Service had recently introduced an arrangement where some paramedics would be located in cars in positions where they could respond more quickly to emergency calls. It was agreed that as the matter was now a national issue the PG would not at this time seek to meet with the Service but would review in the future.

3b Breast Screening Service: SS reported that she had received a reply from the Clinical Director Dr Jacqueline Kelly, which she had circulated to the PG. The letter unfortunately had not answered the questions which had first been asked of the previous Director. It reiterated that the working group for the location of the mobile service will convene again, previously having met once in July 2021. The PG remained concerned about where matters stood in relation to Breast Screening being located in Biggar. It was agreed that Sarah would write to our local MSP seeking her active support and that the letter should be sent before any irrevocable decision could be made. **Sarah to write to the local MSP. To note – a meeting of a working group took place on 6 September 2022.**

3c Hospital Discharge from Borders General Hospital: It was agreed that having drawn the issues to the attention of Borders General the PG should take no further action unless issues were raised again.

3d Biggar Action Plan survey – SS reported that she had contacted Lesley Craise and asked for the PG to receive the survey report but had not been received.

3e Patient Fund: Donald confirmed that the Practice Nurses were considering the suggestion that the Patient fund should purchase a 2nd blood pressure monitor.

4 Community Councils: Sarah confirmed that notes of the PG meetings continued to be sent to all Community Councils whose residents live within the area covered by the Practice. Only 2 Community Councils ever followed up on any matters in the meeting notes or which were raised by residents but 4 had stated that were pleased to continue to receive them.

5 Newsletter: It was agreed that the next meeting should discuss whether a Newsletter should be published by the PG.

6 Annual Patient Cholesterol Checks: Donald clarified the Practice's approach. Only patients whose medical history warrants it are invited to attend for an Annual Cholesterol check.

7 Practice Update: The Practice continued to be very busy, there was no decrease in the level of demand/need although schools were on holiday. The Practice was experiencing some patients, who had been waiting for a long time in A&E, coming to the Practice for help. The plans to re-open the Minor Injuries Unit in the Kello should help the level of demand, subject to the availability of nurses.

The number of Advanced Nurse Practitioners had been increased from 1 to 2 with 3 Nurses.

Dr Jill Barlow had been appointed on a 3 day per week contract.

Lyn Scott was now Practice Manager.

8 Future Meetings and Way of Working: This was carried forward to the next meeting to give DM the opportunity to 'get his feet under the table'.

9 Any Other Business: There was none.

10 Dates for Future Meetings: to be arranged **SS and DM**