**Date:** 20 April 2022 (at 10:00)

**Venue:**  St Georges Medical Practice via Teams

**Attendees**

Liz Stewart (ES) – Chair/minutes

Lynsey Jenkins (LJ) – Assistant Practice Manager

Grahame Levett (GL)

Val Johnston (VJ)

Marjorie Dunn (MD)

Andy Jones (AJ)

Chris McEwan – Lay Member of Darlington Primary Care Network (CMc)

**Apologies**

Frank Mills (FM)

Serena Rana-Rahman (SR)

Karen Gannon (KG)

Jane Sinski (JS)

**SUMMARY MEETING NOTES**

**Roll call/apologies** – CMc introduced himself to the group as lay member of Darlington Primary Care Network (PCN) and former Mayor of Darlington. He is attending all Patient Group Meetings being held across the PCN to gather information on best practice and offer suggestions on how Practices may wish to improve the engagement between patient and practice.

**No matters arising from Previous Meeting 21 Jan 2022**

**New Partner, Dr Andy Hunt**

After a successful six months with the practice as a salaried GP, Dr Hunt joins the partnership with Dr Holmes and Dr Baines on 1 May 2022.

**PHD Services**

LJ explained the variety of services on offer at Primary Healthcare Darlington (PHD) on Woodlands Road, Darlington. These are an extension of our services and include routine nurse, GP and HCA appointments on evenings and weekends. They are very useful for patients who struggle to attend the practice midweek or may need to see a clinician on a weekend e.g., daily dressings.

We do encounter some resistance from patients who do not wish to travel to Darlington. The group discussed the pros and cons of centralising some services, recognising that space and staffing restrictions do make working at scale necessary.

The group agreed to speak to other patients to find out the best way to publicise these additional appointments.

**Mental Health Practitioner**

The practice now have access to a Mental Health Practitioner (MHP) who works from the practice on Thursday afternoons. Patients who contact the surgery with symptoms such as anxiety, low mood etc. can be seen without the need to see a GP first.

The group discussed the option of having a spread of appointments through the week at PHD (as other Darlington practices have) or retaining the weekly service at St George's. We agreed it would be useful to gather the thoughts of the patients who use the service and feedback at the next meeting. Also for the group to speak with fellow patients to find out their opinions.

**Update on New Surgery**

The Agreement for Lease has no outstanding matters for discussion and should be completed soon. The developer will need to revisit building costs as these will have increased since the scheme was first proposed.

**Next PPG meeting -** To be arranged for July 2022.

**Actions**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number | Description | Action | Owner | Status |
| 1 | Gather opinions on communication around PHD but also in general | Group members to speak to fellow patients | Group | Open |
| 2 | Gather feedback from service users and fellow patients on MHP appointments | LJ to devise survey for users. Group to speak to fellow patients | LJ  Group | Open |

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