**Date:** 19 August 2020

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

**Attendees**

Liz Stewart (LS) – Chair/minutes

Grahame Levett (GL)

Marjorie Dunn (MD)

Val Johnston (VJ)

Serena Rana-Rahman (SR)

Andy Jones (AJ)

**Apologies**

Jane Sinski (JS)

Frank Mills (FM)

**Agenda used**

1. Roll call / apologies
2. Review minutes & any matters from previous meeting – All
3. Staff changes – Liz
4. Update on New Surgery – Liz
5. Flu arrangements 2020/21 – All
6. Social Prescribers - Liz
7. Arrange next PPG meeting & assign actions - All
8. AOB

**SUMMARY MEETING NOTES**

**Roll call / apologies** - Roll call was taken and apologies noted.

**Review minutes** – No matters outstanding.

**Staff Changes** - LS advised the following staff changes:

* Dr Ramos has left the practice and has been replaced by Dr Adisa.
* Dr Oxley has returned from maternity leave.
* A Nurse Practitioner has been appointed and joins the practice in November.

**Update on New Surgery**

Activity in the background indicate the plans are progressing. LS shared an email from July stating an application for the permanent building is expected to be lodged in the next couple of months. Draft Heads of Terms for the new lease have been sighted and look promising. Revised estimated date for the new surgery to be operational is by December 2021.

**Flu Arrangements 2020/21**

LS explained that with patient safety in mind, there would be a town wide approach to delivering flu vaccinations this year. This would take the form of a drive through clinic at the Northern Echo Arena and some clinics at St Cuthbert’s Church, for those patients without cars who use public transport. This is the safest way to ensure the number of vaccinations can be delivered whilst maintaining social distancing.

More information will follow and there will be an advertising campaign led by Darlington Primary Care Network.

Group members raised concerns over patients being more reluctant to travel and this may in turn act as a deterrant. LS acknowledged concerns but reiterated the importance of flu vaccinations and that this was the safest way of delivering large numbers. The vaccination programme is huge this year with all 50-64 year olds to be included from November/December.

LS will forward the proposed dates for St George’s allocations but reminded the group that these sessions would depend on the practice’s ability to supply staff. Also a reminder that no appointments will be available to book until the vaccines have arrived in practice (in case of delay with deliveries).

**Social Prescribers**

Information circulated and service discussed. All agreed this was a very useful service. Info to be included on website and in practice newsletter (see below).

**AOB**

**Coronavirus testing** – Information to be circulated on testing if symptomatic and also antibody testing.

**Newsletter** – All agreed a newsletter should be restarted. LS will arrange and as usual add to Facebook and website. The group raised concerns over patients without access to computers and volunteered to distribute to local bulletin boards e.g outside community centres and village halls.

**Hospital Bloods** – There is currently a ‘pod’ set up outside outpatient B entrance at Darlington Memorial Hospital for patients who require blood tests for their ongoing hospital care. Blood tests initiated by the GPs at the practice will continue to be done at the surgery.

**New way of working/remote appointments** – Some concerns expressed over the remote way of working which has had to be introduced in line with government guidance. Some patients find this convenient and quick. There was some discussion over that lack of reassurance which can come with seeing a GP face to face. Also, security over video consultations and photos. LS explained all data security measures were in place and had been signed off by the commissioners. LS understood the concerns but unfortunately could not give any assurance on what future appointments would look like.

**Online appointments** – AJ raised the question of online booking of appointments. This is currently suspended due to all appointments being triaged remotely. We plan to reintroduce this service as soon as safe to do so.

**Positive feedback** – VJ offered some positive feedback on two members of the reception team who had been particularly helpful. LS would pass this on and aslo circulate the weblink to this year’s national survey conducted by Ipsos Mori.

**Next PPG meeting**

To be arranged November 2020.

**Actions**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number | Description | Action | Owner | Status |
| 1 | Info on testing to be circulated | AJ will circulate weblink | AJ | Complete |
| 2 | Clarification on planning for new surgery | LS to circulate email | LS | Complete |
| 3 | Flu clinic dates | LS will forward proposed dates | LS | Complete |
| 4 | National GP Survey | Weblink to be sent | LS | Complete |

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