

**Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Patient Participation Group for the Tean and Blythe Bridge Surgeries held at Blythe Bridge Primary Care Centre at Noon on Tuesday 13th March 2018.**

Present:- Frank Hopley (Chair), Jane Bentley (Practice Manager), Deborah Samuels (Care Co-ordinator, Carers Hub), Christopher Barton, John Cooper, Julie Cooper, Peter Jones, Derek Sederman.

**1. Confidentiality.**

Jane Bentley asked everyone to sign a confidentiality agreement.

**2. Apologies.**

Apologies had been received from Margaret Christie, Emma Fleming and Ann Kollar.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on March 2nd 2017.**

Under Item 3 Peter Jones said he would attend future meetings of the Moorlands Surgeries Group.

**4. Pressure on Surgeries over the winter period.**

Jane Bentley asked whether there had been any complaints about surgery appointments during the winter period due to the extra illnesses. None were registered by the group. Further, Chris Barton asked what had been done to thank Dr Pilpel upon his retirement for his service to the community. Jane was able to assist with various answers but the upshot was that Chris Barton agreed to write a letter on behalf of the P.P.G. thanking Dr Pilpel and wishing him well in his retirement. (letter attached). Dr Pilpel had been replaced at the Practice by Dr. Tukmachi.

**5. Carers Hub**

The main part of the meeting was devoted to a talk by Deborah Samuels on the work of our Carers Hub, which is based both in Stafford and Stoke on Trent. The main aim of Carers Hub was to help carers. The organization, supported by the NHS, Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent, offers advice and at times financial support for those who are full-time carers for their family or friends. To take advantage of the service you have first to make contact with the organization who will carry out an assessment of your needs. Contact can be made in at least five different ways:-

- a) Telephone 0330 123 1937
- b) E-mail [info@thecarershub.co.uk](mailto:info@thecarershub.co.uk)
- c) [www.thecarershub.co.uk](http://www.thecarershub.co.uk)
- d) Twitter.com/'thecarershub
- e) [Facebook.com@thecarershub](https://www.facebook.com/thecarershub)

Alternatively you can drop into their offices at:-

Madford Retail Park, Foregate Street, Stafford, ST16 2QY

or

The Bridge Centre, Birches Head Road, Stoke on Trent, ST2 8DD

Deborah Samuels recommended very strongly that help should be sought by carers before a crisis point arises. She can be reached at the Bridge Centre in Stoke or via her e-mail:- [deb.samuels@peopleplus.co.uk](mailto:deb.samuels@peopleplus.co.uk)

Copies of their leaflet will be placed in both surgeries. Deborah Samuels was thanks very much by the Chair for her informative talk.

Both Deborah Samuels and Chris Barton left at 1.00 pm.

#### **6. Any Other Business.**

Chair, Frank Hopley, brought up the problems of sufferers from Raynaud's Disease or Phenomenon. It is a disease about which little is known. There seem to be many possible causes and various possible treatments.

Peter Jones suggested we advertise the counselling services more. Jane Bentley said that there was access to a Community Psychiatric Nurse.

John Cooper said he felt more should be done to support our surgeries.

There were also questions posed about what to do with "Waste Medication" and the need to advertise screening for bowel cancer.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be at Blythe Bridge Primary Care Centre at Noon on Thursday June 5th 2018 when it was hoped to have a talk from the pharmacist in Blythe Bridge. The meeting ended at 1.30 pm.