

Minutes of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Patient Participation Group for the Tean and Blythe Bridge Surgeries held at the Blythe Bridge Primary Care Centre at Noon on Tuesday 5th June 2018.

Present:- Frank Hopley (Chair), Mary Day (Assistant Practice Manager), Greg Hyde (Blythe Bridge Pharmacy), Chris Barton, John Cooper, Julie Cooper, Emma Fleming, Ann Hancock (left at 1.00 pm), Ann Kollar, Sandra Wooldridge, Derek Sederman.

1. Apologies.

There were no apologies but Frank Bentley and Maureen Winfield had written to say that they wished to resign from the P.P.G.

2. Minutes of the last meeting on March 2nd 2017.

These were agreed as was the letter to Dr Pilpel written on behalf of the Group by Chris Barton.

3. The work of a Pharmacy.

This main part of the meeting was covered by Greg Hyde from Blythe Bridge Pharmacy. He introduced himself by saying that he had been a Community Pharmacist for the last 31 years, a job which had taken him to different parts of the country and to varied types of location.

To begin with he made it clear that many people saw the pharmacist as merely a dispenser of medications either ordered through a surgery after consultation with a doctor or over the counter without a prescription. The tasks and responsibilities of the Pharmacy were, in fact, far wider ranging and which fell into four main groups which were largely separated by the source of funding.

- a) Free
 - b) Commissioned by the N.H.S.
 - c) Commissioned by the C.C.G.
 - d) Private payment
- a) This part of the service covered the dispensing of prescriptions and attracted a reimbursement to the pharmacist of 90p per item. But this often had to include a home delivery service, NHS “trays”, blood pressure testing and diabetes testing, which brought a financial strain on the pharmacist.
 - b) This system allowed for consultation with a pharmacist negating the need for a surgery or A & E visit. The pharmacist was also responsible for the New Medicine Service which educated the public when a change in medicines was necessary because of a change in NHS rulings. They were also involved in the National Emergency Service (NHS 111) – and Flu Vaccinations. This last item brought them sometimes into conflict with surgeries but in general it was agreed that the more people who had the flu vaccine the better.
 - c) This included a series of services many of which required great sensitivity. Mention was made and described of the Supervised Drug Consumption Service, the Needle Exchange Service and the Palliative Care Service. Also described was the Common Ailment Service covering Coughs, Hay Fever, Impetigo and Urinary Tract Infections. Further explanation was given of the Emergency Supply Service which dealt with patients who had inadvertently run out of their medication and who needed a supply even though a surgery visit was not available and a visit to A & E an inefficient use of resources or were seeking advice on the “Morning After” Pill. There were various methods of dealing with these occurrences.

d) The Pharmacist made available by private payment i) Flu Jabs done privately, ii) Blood Test for C.R.P., iii) Travel Clinics, iv) Strep. A throat test kit.

In addition, much time was spent by the pharmacist with the new E.P.S. (Electronic Prescription Service). Coping with drug shortages bought about by work with the National Health Research Authority (NHRA) and involvement in the pricing of drugs.

It was a very full and interesting talk and Frank Hopley thanked Greg Hyde very much for his time and effort and asked that he be invited to all future meetings. Derek Sederman asked whether Greg Hyde had found the meeting useful. He said he did and it was then proposed that the Tean Pharmacist be invited on occasion as well.

Frank Hopley reported that he had been to a meeting of the Stoke on Trent Clinical Commissioning Group at which alarm was raised at the amount of prescribed medical aid and medication was wasted each year. There was some discussion about the methods tried to alleviate this problem.

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm.