

**MINUTES**  
**GREAT HARWOOD MEDICAL GROUP**  
**PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING**

**Date & Time:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 1.00 pm

**Venue:** Practice Library, Gt. Harwood Health Centre

**Those Present:** Sarah Lord, Carol O'Brien, Pauline Quinn, Gerald Rostron, Beryl Timmins, Kevin Dean and Geoff Knowles.

**Apologies:** Yasir Mohammed, Anthea Cunningham, Ian Robinson, David Cockett, Julia Ashworth, John Adams, Gerald Whitehead, Colin Cooper and Joanne Howard.

**1. Welcome**

We welcomed two new members to the meeting; Kevin Dean and Geoff Knowles.

**2. GHMG Updates -**

a) Dr. Grayson Memorial Fund – Mrs Grayson will be attending our March meeting to discuss further.

There has been £2458 given in memory to the British Heart Foundation, £1368 for the British Hypertension Society and £260 for MIND Lancashire.

We discussed briefly the possibility of fundraising for Practice equipment. It was asked if the Practice doctors would match anything we were able to raise and Sarah will speak to Mrs Grayson regarding the possibility of the BHF doing the same.

b) Sarah informed the group that they are very close to recruiting a new GP possibly around the middle of January 2016. We asked Sarah to invite him to the next meeting if the appointment goes ahead.

c) It was stated that if the Junior Doctors strike had gone ahead it would have affected the Practice, but only for a few hours.

**3. PPG Updates**

a) Actions from previous meeting

(i) We need to set up a new Facebook page.

(ii) We already have the Friends & Family test sent by SMS message, at the check in screen, on the web page and at reception.

(iii) There has been no feedback as regards Carers Link holding sessions at Rishton Clinic/Library.

(iv) Doctors questions for survey?

A template has been given to the PPG and will be attached for the minutes for feedback from members.

It was suggested that this be carried out in the new year.

b) Toy cleaning Rishton – Colin has had problems gaining access to the kitchen. However, he is now happy with the new routine.

Beryl very kindly offered to clean at Gt. Harwood week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

The rota from 15.02.16 – 18.04.16 was passed round for volunteers. It will again be passed around at the next meeting.

c) Community Call - Our advert for new members will appear in the January edition of the Herald.

d) Hyndburn PPG –The last meeting was on 16.11.15 , will send minutes to the group when received.

Burnley area meeting was not much help in showing us how the Hyndburn Group should proceed as it consisted of nearly all CCG members and very few patients.

Sarah is happy to be involved – Carol will ask at the next meeting.

Compilation of Services across East Lancs - The Hyndburn PPG are fully behind this but raised the question as to how this can be kept up to date? Carol will pose this question with Rachel from the CCG.

The 'Little Green Bus' is available to take people to their medical appointments – details available from CVS.

It was also stated that a key function of the group should be to help PPGs who are struggling.

e) Prioritisation Process

An email from Jeanette Pearson (NHS Midlands and Lancashire commissioning Support Unit) on 28.10.15 was received which stated; “sorry we are waiting for the feedback from the prioritisation group to be held in Blackburn with Darwen so that we can work across Pennine and their meeting is on the 9 November. Unfortunately the original meeting had to be postponed in BwD so it has put us back a little.”

f) Palliative & End of Life Care

Ian was unable to attend so this will be discussed at the next meeting.

g) Patient Idea for Reception

A patient had mentioned the idea of stickers on the floor in Reception for children. It was decided that although a good idea is slightly unrealistic.

h) Research with Patients

For 2016 Carol asked if this could be linked in with trainee GPs. Sarah would ask the question and get back to us.

i) Speakers at an outside venue (held over from last time)

Sarah has spoken to Carol Pollard from Carers Link who is available to speak at an outside venue. She is very keen to do a talk on the services Carers Link provide which would cover Befriending and Dementia. She suggested a session approx. 1½ hours in length? She is available on a Tuesday & Wednesday. Carol has also spoken to Churchfield House and they can accommodate us any Wednesday (or Thurs but not the 1<sup>st</sup> in the month). Churchfield House is a non profit organisation but would charge us £20. They would make available pump flasks for refreshments. Carol will check the availability as to whether we can hold our event on a Wednesday around 3.00/3.30pm.

j) Royal College of General Practitioners –Lobbying the Chancellor for more funding for GPs. The RCGP state that we could help by sending a letter to our MP. It was decided that we would do this. Below is a copy of the letter sent.

Dear Graham Jones MP,

I am writing to ask you to urge the Chancellor at your earliest opportunity to increase investment in local GP services, which are the cornerstone of our NHS.

General practice deals with 90% of patient contacts, but receives just 8.4% of the total NHS budget, compared to 11% a decade ago.

As a result of a growing and ageing population, services are under growing pressure and are struggling to cope with the ever rising demand for care. Between 2008/09 and 2015/16 the number of GP consultations in England rose from 303m to 384m, an increase of 27%. I and many others are extremely worried about the future of vital GP services, on which many people rely.

The Royal College of General Practitioners is calling for 11% of the total NHS budget to be invested in general practice, allowing GPs more time to care for their patients and to improve services in communities. To shore up existing GP services and ensure patients continue to receive high quality, safe care from their GP, I believe the Chancellor should take the following action in next week's Spending Review:

- **Provide an immediate injection of £750m of additional core funding for the next financial year, to help shore up existing services and develop new ways of working, as set out in *NHS England's Five Year Forward View***
- **Invest an additional £750m year on year in general practice, across the UK, by 2020/21, to help pay for more doctors, nurses and practice based pharmacists in local surgeries**

Investment in general practice is a matter of urgency - not in five years, not next year, but now. An immediate funding boost is needed, followed by sustained, long term investment over the next five years is key to the survival of general practice.

As our local politician, I am counting on you to raise this issue with the Chancellor. Action needs to be taken now. If not, we risk destabilising the local GP services on which I, and many others depend upon every day.

Thank you for raising this issue and giving your full support to the future of general practice.

Yours Faithfully

Our MEP; Theresa Griffin will also be copied in with this letter.

k) NAPP

Carol explained that the newsletter we receive each month is well worth our members reading. She went on to highlight a few points raised in the latest edition -

(i) On 20th November NHS England developed a new patient and public participation policy-, the Board have approved this policy. It also committed to further seek out, listen and respond to people's views on the NHS. This is being done in order to strengthen public and participation in the work of NHS England. It is proposed that this will be done through different steering groups with Patient/Public involvement. Carol will find out more to see if/how it directly affects us at the next Hyndburn PPG.

(ii) Carol discussed how we can all help be an Antibiotic Guardian. This is because antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats facing us today (NAPP). It was decided that we as a group would support this by visiting; <https://antibioticguardian.com> Where we can all pick a pledge.

It was further decided that this will appear in the next edition of the newsletter along with a re-run of the antibiotic literature from 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition May.

(iii) Carol asked Sarah if we had enquired regarding the pharmacists recruited to GPs surgeries next year through NHS England who has more than doubled the funding to £31M for this pilot.

Sarah has looked into this scheme, however it is only partly funded with the funding decreasing year on year. Therefore, our Practice will not be participating.

#### **4. NEWSLETTER**

It is with regret that Carol and Sarah received an email from Gerald tendering his resignation from the group and as our IT advisor/Newsletter. He now has other items which take up his time. He has very kindly offered help to anyone wishing to take over the post. A card shall be sent from the group.

As this was a poorly attended meeting it was decided to leave this position vacant until our next meeting which shall also be our AGM.

Next Newsletter – Jan/winter

(i) Antibiotic item re-run from May 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

- (ii) Antibiotic Guardian website - <https://antibioticguardian.com>
- (iii) Brief Minutes
- (iv) Update donations in memory of Dr. R. Grayson
- (v) Prescriptions update
- (vi) All the items agreed at the last meeting

## **5. FEEDBACK FROM PATIENTS**

- a) It was advised that patients will be given a 28 day supply of medication for monthly renewals.

Any prescriptions issued by the hospital must be dispensed at the hospital pharmacy. If the item is out of stock the hospital pharmacy may be able to arrange for it to be delivered to a local branch. To save the patient going back to the hospital pharmacy.

- b) A patient advised that an appointment which they thought had been made through a GP had not actually been made. This seems to have been a misunderstanding as GPs do not make hospital appointments on behalf of patients.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Carol advised that the next meeting shall be the AGM and we shall be looking for at least the positions of Vice Chairperson and IT advisor/Newsletter.

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

AGM and meeting to follow – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 1.30pm in the Practice Library.

Carol finished by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas.