

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

**Date & Time:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 2.00 pm

**Venue:** Gt Harwood Medical Group

**Those Present:** Carol O'Brien, Julia Ashworth, David Cockett, Kevin Dean, Pauline Quinn, Beryl Timmins and Colin Cooper

**Welcome:** Carol welcomed the group to the first meeting of the New Year.

**Apologies:** Dr. J Ireland, Sarah Lord, Mohammed Yasir, John Adams and Gerald Rostron.

**Introduction of new members:** None, however our Guest speaker Donna Atkinson CEO of the 'Little Green Bus' and their Project Support; Steve were welcomed.

It is with regret that two of our members have resigned due to other commitments; Brian and Maureen Faud. They wish everyone and the group well for the future.

**GHMG Doctors:** Due to illness cover it was not possible for any of our GPs or Sarah to attend due to them being needed elsewhere within the Practice.

**Guest Speaker:** The Little Green Bus Company

The project was started in 1992 with a view to providing transport for people living in rural isolation and mobility issues etc. This was initially for the Ribble Valley. However, due to Lottery Funding they can now offer Group Transport and Car scheme within Hyndburn. They have 30+ volunteer bus and car drivers, but are actively recruiting.

Donna stated that Partnership working was key to their success; Age UK, Help Direct, Carers Link, Crossroads, Shopmobility, RVBC, LCT, LCC, GPs etc.

Volunteers use their own cars however training, insurance and expenses are paid. All drivers are DBS checked (the old CRB) and given Midas training which includes; first aid and dementia. This training can be bought by other groups.

There is no age ceiling for volunteers although at 70 years of age they need to have a medical which LGB will pay for.

The scheme is mainly used for medical appointments. The driver will on many occasions take them into the building find out where they should be and take them to the department. They go as far as the Blackpool hospitals. Many referrals to the scheme are from GPs.

Membership is £5 per annum this is needed for insurance purposes. The LGB will cover the mileage from the volunteer's door to the patient's home. The patient will then pay from their home and back again at 40p per mile.

They also run a bus which will hold up to 15 passengers and can be hired by groups. However it's unfortunate that 'Now' cards are not accepted.

Donna went on to state that the drivers are also helpful when they may see a decline of a patient, they are a little like a neighbourhood watch scheme where they can raise issues, liaise with family, be a listening ear and could if necessary signpost to other agencies.

It was decided that Carol would pass on the details of the scheme to other PPGs within Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley area.

### **GHMG – a) On-going b) New developments**

None to report

### **PPG**

1. **Toys** – the rota was passed around for February and March. It was also stated that we need a new container as the existing one has broken handles and is a safety issue – ask Sarah.  
It was also decided that members should meet to sort through new toys that have been donated to determine suitability.
2. **Christmas Fayre** -  
In total we raised  
High St £155.23  
Harwood £385.82  
**Total £531.05**

The full breakdown, which Sarah had put together for us showed where funds were raised. However, some monies did get mixed up in different pots due to how busy the fayre was.

The Fayre was in memory of Dr. R. Grayson for the purchase of a 'plaque' for Rishton and mental health self help books. The group thought that rather than large books which could be hired out to purchase 'substantial booklets'. Carol will ask Mind Lancashire to see what they can provide and then pass the details onto the GPs to decide which would benefit our patients the most.

We discussed the possibility of repeating a Christmas Fayre –

- We need to look at more publicity in Rishton and possibly an 'A' board.
- More help is needed in the run up to the event
- Must be held at end of November
- Raffle tickets to be discussed at a subsequent meeting; £1 per ticket

All money raising/events to be discussed at the AGM.

### **3. Medication passport**

None of the group was aware of these. They are to help patients when they move through the care system/possibly abroad. Carol will ask Sarah.

### **4. Accessing medical records**

To ask Sarah at the next meeting about making the emailing messages simpler.

### **5. Hyndburn PPG – (HPPG)News**

There is still no news regarding the walk-in centre at Accrington Victoria. As far as we are aware this will close its door at the end of March 2017, but there is no news on what is replacing it. The HPPG have sent letters to find out what is going on, but also to bring to their attention that the information which we are getting at PPG level is non-existent, which makes us ask the question; 'what is the point of our existence'? Carol will report any further information as she receives it.

### **Newsletter**

- Little Green Bus (LGB)
- Quit Smoking
- Seek advice from Pharmacist - to ask Yasir opinion at the next meeting about how all Pharmacists in Great Harwood are working this system
- Minutes in Brief
- Have your say – feedback form to be produced for the newsletter for patients to cut it out and post in the box on reception.

### **Feedback from Patients**

Patients are still asking regarding there being no doctor present throughout the opening of the surgery at Rishton. It was commented that this is also the case at the Gt Harwood site. A doctor is only on the premises when a clinic is taking place, during other times they are providing home visits.

### **Any Other Business**

None

### **Next Meeting**

- Tue 14<sup>th</sup> March – AGM followed by meeting
- May, Tues 12<sup>th</sup> July, Tues 12<sup>th</sup> September and Tues 14<sup>th</sup> November.