

**OVERTON PARK SURGERY
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23RD 2018 6:30PM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: SH, RS, KM, Mark Thatcher Practice Manager, Dr Julian Wilson GP Partner

A. Welcome – introductions and apologies

Apology from EH. MT noted that the schools have not returned from the summer holidays, hence no representatives from either CLC or DC. MT will liaise with AS re. future meeting dates.

The members present paid tribute to Mrs Mary Hawkhead who passed away recently. Mrs Hawkhead was a strong supporter of the surgery and long standing member of the PPG. She will be greatly missed.

B. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting were discussed. MT was pleased to report that Dr Wilson was able to attend as there had not been a GP Partner present at the last few meetings. MT reassured the meeting that he would ensure Partners are present for future meetings on a rota basis.

A number of actions were taken following the last meeting:

- MT reported that there had not been any further contact with Yorkleigh Surgery re. future healthcare education events. This will be pursued following the next event.
- The information screen in the waiting room has been updated so that it no longer states that patients can see their doctor of choice on the day.
- The spring newsletter included feedback from the dementia education evening.

The minutes were agreed by those present at the meeting.

C. PPG Health Education sessions

MT reported that the Managing Memory health education session had been postponed from July. MT explained that the decision had been made to change the name of the session from 'Dementia' to 'Managing Memory' as it was felt that this was more inclusive and less potentially off-putting in terms of inviting patients and carers.

There are a number of potential dates that have been offered by the managing memory service in September. MT has been provided with a list of patients and carers to invite by Nic Stephens the Nurse for the Older Person at Overton Park Surgery. MT stated that the service has offered either morning or afternoon sessions. The PPG members felt that afternoons would be more convenient for patients and carers.

The PPG members asked about alternative topics for future events. MT reported that it has been very difficult to find a speaker for a proposed sexual health education session. Dr Wilson suggested dermatology as a topic – potential speakers could include Dr William Porter, Dr Peter Slimmings or Dr Alex Owen. MT will investigate.

D. Improved Access/Countywide clinics

MT and Dr Wilson provided some background to the Improved Access and Countywide clinics. The Improved Access clinics are available to the six practices in the central Cheltenham cluster (Overton Park, Underwood, Yorkleigh, Royal Crescent, Crescent Bakery and Berkeley Place). Overton Park Surgery hosts these evening clinics from Monday to Thursday 6:30pm until 8pm, but from 1st September this will also include Friday evenings and Saturday mornings 8:30am until 12:30pm. The Countywide clinics are available to all surgeries in Gloucestershire and will be hosted by Overton Park every Sunday from 10am until 6pm.

Dr Wilson reported that the Improved Access clinics have been a great help with access to appointments.

E. GP appointments

EH whilst offering apologies asked for the question to be raised regarding recent reports about the average working week of GPs (3 ½ days) and how this can make it difficult for patients to see the GP of their choice. Dr Wilson explained that a full time GP works 9 sessions per week, a session is either a morning or afternoon. This is now extremely rare and increasingly doctors are working closer to 7 sessions per week.

The GP workforce consists of more female GPs than previously and they choose to work shorter weeks with family commitments etc. This is coupled with the demand by Government for GP surgeries to open 7 days per week, 8am until 8pm. Dr Wilson pointed out that the average 'life span' of new GPs is now only 7 years. General Practice is now a very different beast and it is therefore increasingly difficult to provide access and ensure continuity of care.

F. Staff news

Dr Suzanna Lake, GP Registrar will be here until September. Dr Langford-Wells and Dr Prichard will both be here until October. Dr Tim Davis joined us in August and will be here until August 2019.

Our Lead Nurse Tracey Moore is currently on sick leave. In her absence we have an experienced nurse running weekly diabetic clinics and we have an Advanced Nurse Practitioner here for 6 weeks running minor illness clinics.

MT explained that a number of the GPs at Overton Park Surgery have trained here as GP Registrars including Dr Coker, Dr Fox and Dr Christmas.

G. Any other business

- KM asked if meeting minutes could be released closer to the meetings. MT agreed to do this wherever possible.
- RS asked that her thanks be passed on to Lisa, Jo and Debbie from the nursing team for their excellent care in recent weeks.

H. Date of next meeting

21/11/2018