

## MINUTES OF THE MARDEN MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at 7:00pm at The Marden Village Club

**PRESENT.** John Haddow, Peter Kershaw, Judy Taylor, Jill Nichols, Jenny Jones, Brian Arbuckle, Geoff Bartram, Sian & Geoff Burr, Dr Julie Morgan, Nick Ferguson-Dow, Kate & Graham Tippen, Anne Boswell, Claire Courtley, Eunice Doswell, Catherine Alderson, Andrew Maynard, Patricia Maynard, David Stamp, Robert Thompson, Laura Pengelly Jones, Ian Carpenter, Ray Morris

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Angus Boucher, Julie West, Lyn & Chris Childs, Carroll Taylor, Gill Tarry, Rachel Chacon, Alison Fisher, Sue & Phil Betts

John Haddow thanked The Village Club committee for offering the space free of charge. This is the first time the PPG had met in The Village Club.

John Haddow reminded the group that the NHS will be 75 years old on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The initial NHS Bill was put to Parliament this week in 1946 and passed into law in July 1948. As active PPG members we are playing a small part in helping the NHS operate in these challenging times. Thanks for the group support.

### **SHOULD GPs BE PRESCRIBING NATURE PRESENTATION.**

**Ray Morris from the Marden Wildlife Group gave a presentation.**

Ray's slides attached with the minutes. Most of the photos were taken in and around Marden by Marden residents. The sunflower photo is the field in Plain Road. Some useful links:

[Nature Prescriptions | The RSPB](#)

[Edinburgh-pilot-final-report.pdf \(rspb.org.uk\)](#)

Summary of presentation:

The concept of prescribing nature or green social prescribing was very new and the first time Ray had been asked to give a talk on this subject. The work is getting more interest nationally having been initiated in Shetland a recent project in Edinburgh. There are pilot projects ongoing in England.

The idea is via GPs and or social prescribing patients are prescribed nature – in a variety of forms. The localisation of the 'nature prescription' in each project was shared. The sort of requirements include getting into nature and completing specific simple tasks.

The suggestion is PPG members think about how this could be adopted in whatever form around Marden where we have excellent access to the countryside and open space.

### **PRACTICE UPDATE.**

**Update from Dr Julie Morgan**

- No significant changes since the last meeting
- Staffing levels are stable. We have a new GP Registrar starting in April. We hope to be able to host medical students from September.
- Dr Neil Potter will be retiring from partnership at the end of June. We will be joined by Dr Rob Derrick who was a GP Registrar with us in 2019-2020 and is popular with staff and patients. We will be ensuring the smooth transition of Dr Potter's patients to Dr Derrick.
- The Portacabin is no longer a "hot zone" but is providing us with vital clinical, meeting and admin room capacity
- Our current focus is on continuing to provide good patient care and on meeting the end of year targets for 31<sup>st</sup> March deadline.

- There is a new GP contract which starts from 1.4.2023. the focus is on access. There is a requirement that “patients should be offered an assessment of need, or signposted to an appropriate service, at first contact with the practice.” In most situations this is how we already work but we will need to do some training to ensure that the reception team are all confident in care navigation to other services and will also be reviewing our templates to make available more pre-bookable appointments. The patient experience on contacting the reception team may not feel very different. The requirement is to be offered an appropriate appointment within in 2 weeks of this contact but this does not have to be with a GP. There is no additional funding to support this or the other requirements. The BMA have made it clear that for many practices these ambitions are simply not achievable. We still have not had the full guideline document. Amidst all this we will also be considering safe working levels for all our clinicians. Once we have seen the full guidelines, we will be considering the implications on how we work. Watch this space!
- The NHS Health Bus which was in the village on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March has generated approx. 10 referrals to us of people who may have undiagnosed hypertension.
- We are participating in the Spring Covid Booster programme. All people over 75 years and those aged 5 years and older who are immunocompromised. There is a new vaccine. We are hoping to have a clinic on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and will then to smaller Friday clinics. This depends on availability of vaccine which has not been confirmed. For the autumn programme our vaccine supplies were capped.

### Questions

Question asked about the new digital phone system and any issues. Dr Morgan noted that there had been some initial and recently occasional issues. The IT outage last week across the whole K&M GP network had been unfortunate. The telephone system notification of ‘place in queue’ has caused some concerns from patients but generally has been accepted. At peak times - 3 staff are answering calls.

Questions asked about the impact on patients of the new GP contract effective 1.4.2023. Dr Morgan stated it was unclear but likely to be negative and would be monitored closely.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.** Committee members in were asked to approve the previous meeting minutes – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023. No issues or comments. **Minutes Agreed.**

### PPG ACTIVITIES UPDATE.

#### Update from John Haddow

- Membership stable at around 290 members.
- The PPG helped arrange the NHS Health Bus that was parked in the Library Car Park on 17<sup>th</sup> March.
- Members have been asked to volunteer to help at the upcoming Spring Booster clinic (s). 15 volunteers have come forward to date. First clinic planned for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. John Haddow to distribute the draft volunteer rota asap.
- £116 has been spent so far on miscellaneous printing and PPG website items - £150 was received from the Weald PCN for PPG expenditures in 2023.
- The PPG would like to thank MPC for their support is promoting health & wellbeing on their social pages and in the MPC Newsletters. The Spring Newsletter also included an updated Community and Health & Wellbeing Contact list insert.
- John Haddow regularly attends the virtual West Kent PPG Chairs calls and the Weald PCN meetings. The new Integrated Care Board is becoming more established, and the various actors and stakeholders organised. There is still widespread concern on access to GPs and to hospital wait times.
- John Haddow asked for any suggestions of what the PPG should be doing in the next 3-6 months.
- The next meeting will be the AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 and a small celebration will be held for Dr Neil Potter who will be retiring in June. Location tbc.

## **Questions**

Dr Morgan asked how we think about a project to consider how we can adopt some form of nature prescribing @ Marden? Anne Boswell recommended that we discuss with the Marden Community Forum group at our next call. All agreed this was good start. John Haddow to discuss with Involve Link Worker team – social prescribers.

## **Q&A**

None.

## **DATES FOR UPCOMING 2023 COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 + AGM location tbc**

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 Marden Medical Centre**

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Reminder:** Re-election of the 2023/24 Committee. PPG officers and committee members will be required be re-elected in June'23. There are currently 14 committee members including the chair and excluding MMC staff members. Any current committee members not wishing to be re-elected should contact John Haddow. Any PPG members wishing to join the committee in any role should contact John Haddow.