

Strettondale Patient Participation Group

35th committee meeting

10.15-12.15, Wednesday 8 April 2015, Ley Gardens

Present: Howard Bridge, Richard Chanter, Anne Gee, Pat Gibson, Sue Hockaday, Sue Marsh, Andrew Mercer; Sue Pinsent, Bill Ross.

Apologies: Catherine Macartney

1. A photo of the committee was taken; MG was thanked and asked to supply an invoice. **(Action SP)**
2. Gren Jackson, accompanied by Jean Rice, from the Bishop's Castle Patients Group spoke about the operation of the group and the proposition it has put to Future Fit 2 regarding the reorganisation of local health services:
 - The BCPG takes an overview of local health services independently of the Medical Practice.
 - Monthly committee meetings are attended by one or both of the partners from the MP.
 - The group publishes a monthly "NHS Tracker" to keep patients up to date with local and national NHS agendas. There is a PG website, notice boards in the town, an annual patient survey and open meeting, and task groups for specific issues which involve people other than committee members.
 - The MP has 5,300 patients, 22% of whom live in Wales.

The BCPG Proposition stems from a concern that the original Future Fit model for Emergency Centres (A & E) and Urgent Care Centres in Shropshire did not fit BC's rural location. The model was also contested by Ludlow Patients Group; two independent reviews raised questions about the model's suitability for rural areas. Future Fit's revised plan has been slow to evolve; bureaucracy and complicated funding streams continue to impede progress; it is hoped that new recommendations from Andrew Ferguson, seconded from the Community Health Trust, will be out to public consultation by the end of the year.

GJ gave SPPG committee members a summary document of the proposition which is based on a flexible response to patient needs. There are three elements:

- The existing BC Community Hospital should become a GP led Urgent Care Centre. (Currently, it provides 17 beds mainly for respite care. It is well staffed and has no difficulties in recruitment; nursing staff's skills are under-used. It has facilities for chemotherapy treatment that have never been used).
- The hospital could also provide local planned care before and after hospital treatment.

- The town could accommodate a Community Hub bringing together health and social care, similar to the Health and Well-Being Centre planned for Church Stretton.

The BCPG is now working up detailed specifications for each element and researching likely patient numbers. The proposition is of interest to patients in Church Stretton as it could offer a choice of Urgent Care Centres, each about 25 minutes away in Shrewsbury or Bishop's Castle.

3. GJ and JR were thanked for their input.
4. The pharmacist Rob Allman will be invited to the May meeting to talk to the committee about current initiatives. **(Action AG)**
5. Kerry Allward from the Better Care Fund will now be asked to speak at the July meeting. **(Action RC)**
6. It was agreed that the SPPG accounts should be audited. **(Action BR)**
7. SM reported that MP staff and patients are pleased with the alterations to reception. When all is complete, patients will be more visible to reception staff answering the telephone as they will no longer have their backs to the front desk. An additional heater has been installed over the door into the waiting room.
8. It was agreed that the SPPG notice board has more impact, thanks to SP's work. The committee photo will be labelled with names but no contact details other than the Strettondale PPG email address. SM agreed to collect common questions and their responses for display. **(Action SP, SM)**
9. Items on the constitution and Patient Access will be discussed at later meetings. SM agreed to check PA usage and summarise the benefits of the system. **(Action SM, AM)**
10. SH and AM agreed to look at the SPPG website and make recommendations at the July meeting for updating it. **(Action SH, AM)**
11. RC reported that the chair of the Shropshire Patients Group has resigned; so far, a replacement has not been found.
12. BR reported that the panel for an item about the future of local health services at the All Stretton Village Society's meeting will comprise: BR, AG, Rod Thomson, Kerry Allward, Nicola McPherson and Lee Chapman. Committee members are invited to attend on 13/5/15, 7.30pm in the village hall.

Next meetings:

1) Wednesday 20 May, Ley Gardens, 10.15-12.15: constitution; Patient Access.

2) Wednesday 1 July, Mayfair 10.15-12.15: Better Care Fund tbc; SPPG website.