**SPPG Open Evening and AGM - 4th October 2017**

40 present, plus members of MP, pharmacies and SPPG committee

**Mr Sean Mackey- Head of Medicine Management for Shropshire CCG spoke**. Re annual drug costs within Shropshire £54m generated by GPs, estimated that £2.5m is cost of wasted drugs and CCG are looking to save £4m annually.

Repeat orders for prescriptions throughout the county can be either 28, 56, 84 per month and reducing this interval means less wastage when drugs are changed.

Prescription Ordering Department (POD) a call centre, was set up 06.2017, by CCG to assist and monitor patient’s repeat drug requests - a verbal check that entire prescription is needed and that all medication has been used. Any patient query is relayed to an on-site pharmacist with the medication request. Currently three Shropshire GP practices are involved (Cambrian, Severnfields and Bridgnorth – all with 10K+ patients) and all practices in Telford & Wrekin. Ordering on-line remains an option. 5-8% annual drug cost saving expected, including set up costs. Church Stretton MP will be low priority for change to POD as a very efficient and small practice. GPs will continue their regular annual medication review for patients.

Generic drugs now encouraged, although assured audience that if a patient finds a product less effective than the present named brand there will not be a restriction. Software connected to the clinical system flags up to GPs the cheaper drug- generally same drug, but in a different carrier or with different colouring, either of which could cause adverse reaction. GP will only change medicaiton after discussion with patient.

Gluten free products - since September this year are not available on prescription.

Care Homes and patients requiring ‘sip’ feeds are being provided with instruction in making suitable alternatives in house.

‘Staywell, Think Pharmacy First’ leaflet giving information about using a pharmacist for advice and drugs for common ailments (as an alternative to visiting a GP), was advocated and available to take away this evening.

**Emma Kay, GP Practice Manager spoke on Practice developments**. Recently three practice staff attended a Leadership Course organised by CCG. Nurse Rowan joined the practice December 2016. Two doctors (Drs Bennet and Riera) re now able to supervise trainee GPs. There is a Facebook page with 800 followers. An administrative assistant (Emma) employed for 1 year, following a successful apprenticeship. Patients are encouraged to complete a ‘Friends and Family’ feedback form as CCG requires this from GPs. Practice acts on feedback from these and the PPG comments box.

League of Friends, for whom EK is secretary and treasurer, exists to provide additional resources for the MP. Recently contributed 50% of cost of decorating walk way to Well Being Centre, high backed chairs in waiting room for less mobile patients, centrifuge to enable blood to be stored prior to sending to hospital, a hyfrecator used to cauterise minor surgical wounds and a BBC license to permit waiting room musics. The MP is not able to accept donations so LofF an alternative for anyone wishing to donate.

**Dr. Alex Chamberlain spoke on ‘Our Health Partnership’ (OHP).** MP joined 37 other MPs 05.2017 in partnership. 6 in Shropshire, remainder in Birmingham and the West Midlands, with plan to be ‘working at scale’. Government are encouraging practices to “federate” and join larger groups. Our MP believes this initiative to be most beneficial as will allow them to influence future primary care locally and nationally. It comprises 187 partners, 920 staff members, 340,000 patients. Each MP is autonomous although the Partnership has a Board- AC being one of two Shropshire Board members. Currently is the largest practice in UK. Immediately on signing up, our CCG initiated dialogue with OHP. Accounting admin’ done centrally and staff employed by OHP which gives flexibility. Initially costly to join, via a subscription based on patient numbers. Looking to provide finances for improved district health, mental health and physiotherapy services. It is hoped that young GPs will feel encouraged to join a large partnership, as less financial risk for an individual and no danger of “last man standing” in a practice where everyone else has retired.

In response to a query about how this will affect ShropDoc, **Dr Digby Bennett,** responded that Shropdoc are in financial difficulty due to lack of investment, rising costs and shortage of GPs. In future at Ludlow, although a GP will be available to supervise, a patient may have a consultation with an Urgent Care Practitioner.

**Dr Digby Bennett spoke on ‘e Consult’** A NHS, computer based source of GP advice without waiting for an appointment – ex. requesting repeat medication, requesting sick note extension. Patient goes on line, makes request, completing tick box questionnaire, this emailed to MP where directed to relevant member of staff who will respond with information/further signposting to a service/write prescription/advise need for GP appointment, as appropriate. This has a link to Emis although not part of it and is available to all patients. Unfortunately initiative running late so not currently available, but will be promoted by MP as soon as it is.

**AGM.**

Minutes from 2016 accepted without comment.

Jan Brazendale, the Rowlands pharmacist, notified all present that restructuring is taking place, but there are no plans for Rowlands to close.

Notification that the Health & Wellbeing Centre is holding an Osteoporosis Day Tuesday 24/10/2017 – booking required as there are timed events.

Mental Health Awareness Week 16-18th and 20th October at the Health & Wellbeing Centre

SPPG is a voluntary group whose objective is to foster good relationship with MP, promoting interests of all patients. To aid communication there is an SPPG notice board, comments box and working on a Facebook page. To increase understanding the committee, this year, has had a demonstration explaining computerised patient records, talk from a Community Nurse, lunch time meetings with the Drs. to explain the OHP and Summary Care Records.

Meredith Vivian is a local, lay member of the CCG who joins the committee, as a non-voting member.

A question was raised as to how fully representative of patients the committee is? It was acknowledged that this is an area of concern as we are aware that younger patients are not represented. Dr Chamberlain offered to use the MP Facebook page in order to raise awareness of this need.

Attendees’ attention was drawn to the SPPG NewsSheet available for all and the evening closed at 8.45.