

Haughton Thornley Medical Centres
Patient Participation Group
Minutes of Meeting held on 26th January 2021
via Zoom

Present: Cathy Dobson, Dominic Sexton, Ingrid Brindle, Eric Bynon, Amir Hannan, Deb Smith, Olive Harper, Yvonne Bennett, Christine Greenough, Mark Hindle, Kate Bradley, Kath Mills, Richard Williams

Apologies: Lisa Gutteridge, David Hill

1. Ingrid opened the meeting with introductions and huge congratulations from everyone to Dr Hannan on his MBE. Dr Hannan has had thousands of messages (as has his mum!) - so many that he's not been able to reply to them all, or even read them yet. He feels that the award is not just for him but for everyone working to improve the practice.

Also congratulations to Dr H on the printing of his article in the BMJ – Dominic will send out an audio version to all.

Further congratulations are also in order to the whole practice working hard together with other practices in the area to get covid vaccinations to as many patients as possible. We apparently have the first drive through vaccination facility in the world and have been recognised by the press with Primary Care Network representative Jane Harvey being interviewed on radio and TV.

2. Covid update (digression from agenda). At the time of the meeting 617 HTMC patients have tested positive for covid-19.

Members of the practice worked over the New Year to ensure that vaccines that had been delivered were not wasted.

Deb told us how proud she is to be part of the team which has demonstrated strong ties with other local practices, all working together to get everyone vaccinated.

There has been a great atmosphere at the drive through – it's been rewarding working there but also enjoyable. Deb also wanted to mention the staff based in the surgeries who have been taking phone calls and keeping everything going there.

Also thanks to Ingrid for the provision of mulled wine (non-alcoholic) to keep everyone going.

Tameside and Glossop is now ahead of the rest of the country and might have to slow down to allow the rest of the country to catch up.

Olive, Eric and Ingrid have received their first jabs and were very complimentary about the efficiency and speed of the vaccination program from a patient point of view.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
4. Matters arising. Ingrid mentioned the discussion at the last meeting about Evergreen Life and the usefulness of an alert if new information is added to a record. Mark confirmed that this has been developed and is being tested. The feature should be available within a few

weeks. Mark will get a screen shot for us to see what it will look like. Also, recent improvements have been made for iPad users.

Dr H wondered if the app could be used to prove that you've been vaccinated – could be useful for travellers. The government is reluctant to introduce vaccination passports. He also noted that it can take a week for a patient's record to show the vaccination.

5. Further covid discussion. Yvonne praised the organisation at Denton Festival Hall where she went for her first jab.

There was discussion about the delay to the second jab. This is because the government and Public Health England (PHE) believe that it is better to give more people in the high priority groups one dose than for fewer people to have two.

Debs talked about problems with supply – deliveries are being made, but there is little or no warning when they are coming making it difficult to schedule appointments.

Everyone who has had the first jab should have the second one within 12 weeks.

Having the first jab does not offer complete protection from covid and so everyone must still follow the guidance around social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing hands.

However, infection with the virus after the first dose should ensure less serious disease.

Patients in priority groups 1 – 4 have almost all had the first dose.

Some patients in the meeting are concerned that the 12 week wait for the second dose is too long and is not approved by the WHO, BMA and vaccine manufacturers. The vaccine was not tested with such a long delay between doses and one dose does not constitute full vaccination.

Dr H is also concerned that the delay can affect the doctor/patient relationship as consent for the vaccination includes a promise of 2 doses 3 weeks apart. BUT as things stand now the second doses will not be given until the first doses have been given to all in the top priority groups.

Patients with concerns should raise them with their MPs.

6. Staff update. Jordan is a new team member who will be working with patients to enable them to access their records. The meeting watched a video of Jordan explaining his role.

7. Practice questions.

Question re wastage of covid vaccine. What happens if people do not attend their vaccination appointments? Deb explained that there is a list of people who will be called where there has been a DNA (did not attend). This list currently consists of people in the high priority groups.

Question re vitamin D and whether it's being prescribed to elderly patients. Answer is yes for those who have a vitamin D deficiency. All patients are advised to buy vitamin D. PHE advises that everyone take 800 units per day from September to March, when sunlight levels are low.

8. Support group for weight loss.

David Hill was unable to join the meeting but has suggested that a support group for men could help them with weight loss. The meeting discussed other initiatives such as Be Well, and what the practice can do to support those trying to lose weight. Apps including MyFitnessPal and Everygreen

Life were mentioned as being able to, for example, help to monitor a person's diet, and nudge them to exercise.

Dr H and Deb will contact David to work out what the practice can do to assist. Dom will forward details to Mark to see if Evergreen Life can help.

9. Next meeting will be in five weeks – Tuesday 2nd of March at 3pm.