

**PLAS MEDDYG PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP
MEETING 29th November 2023.**

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence.

Muriel Simmons (MS)

2. Attended

Ann Watson (AW)

Eunice Kirby (EK)

James Green (JG)

Jeffrey Baker (JB)

Mark Burgess (MB)

Mick Downs (MD)

Mike Tindall (MT) (Deputy/Acting Chair)

Pam Garofalo (PG)

Sandra Gilliard (SG)

Susanne Walsh (SW)

3. Minutes of last meeting (circulated)

26th September 2023 approved.

4. Matters arising.

MD re ICS - GP Practices are to be on ICBs (Integrated Care Boards) so would PPGs be able to have any input? MB confirmed he does not receive minutes of any of the ICBs but will aim to obtain some. Brief debate around whether ICBs are worth discussing if the PPG can have no input in or influence on them. AW said if money is involved then it is in the PPG's interest to know what is going on.

ACTION: MB to try to acquire copies of ICB minutes.

5. Surgery Update.

MB supplied the following updates:

Matters Arising

Flexibility with appointments and using discretion

Carried forward – MB will raise with them at my meeting with them next week and will email their comments.

Surgery News

Staff

Dr Adam Morfakis is now on a placement with another specialty as part of his GP training. He will return at the beginning of February.

Sadly, Dr Anne Thomas has now qualified and is leaving us this week to take up a salaried position in Surrey, near to where she has moved. She will be sorely missed.

MB added in the meeting that he thought there may not be as many trainees with the surgery this year.

Respiratory Clinic

From Monday we will be able to refer patients with acute respiratory conditions (no pre-existing conditions or chronic long-term conditions) into clinics being held at The Albion every weekday

between 8am and 6.30pm. These clinics will be manned by a GP and an Advanced Clinical Practitioner and should help us cope with the anticipated winter surge in demand.

Flu Vaccines and Covid Autumn Boosters

We have done well on this despite the nonsense that has been Covid Booster supply! We have now visited all our housebound patients that requested vaccinations and have held multiple clinics at the surgery – these have been mainly for Flu due to the uncertainty of Covid supply. Demand for the Covid Boosters was initially good, but demand has tailed off, perhaps because Covid cases (especially bad ones) aren't really in the news.

Brief discussion as to why there is no major uptake of the Covid boosters.

JB - did we find out why places like Aspire are getting the vaccines more easily? MB – there are sometimes GP practices who receive the vaccine before Plas, seemingly without reason, so there may not be a reason here, either.

MD – is there a policy that favours pharmacies? MB – nothing obvious.

6. Primary Care Network PPG update – Mike Tindall.

No updates as MT felt the purpose of the PPG and within the Network had been queried and needed to be discussed and agreed. MT's requests to the ICT for someone to speak at a PPG has also been met with silence.

SW referred to the Focus Group (Arthritis) as it was suggested there that discussion with other PPGs so their patients can join Plas's Focus Groups. This would make it more viable to invite specialist speakers to speak with patients. SW asked if she could try to make contact with the other PPGs.

JG suggested a letter is sent to the Secretary of the ICS Board Meetings requesting someone comes to speak at our PPG as it would then need to be presented at the meeting. The response would then need to be documented and, if Plas receives a refusal, this can be escalated to show the ICS will not engage with Plas.

ACTION: MB to provide contact details of other PPGs to SW.

ACTION: MS to draft a letter for sending to the ICS requesting a speaker at the PPG.

7. Focus Group – Susanne Walsh.

Covered as part of point 6 also, but these are successful, and SW was thanked for her work on the groups.

8. Any other business.

- a. SW – concern re a personal experience raised therefore not minuted, but this led to JG asking if Plas was now fully staffed (admin) – yes. MD – when letters are sent from Consultants to Plas, what is the process? MB – depends on what the GP is required to do for the patient and how urgent the action is. If GPs feel the request is inappropriate, there is liaison with the consultant. AW – is there someone at Plas who checked follow-up actions requested by consultants to check it has been done? MB – the team do this; like anything, some actions can be missed at times. AW – if a GP requests a test, do they follow up the results? MB – yes.

9. Dates of meetings 2024.

Wednesday, 24th January 2024.

JG sent advance apologies.