**OLD SCHOOL SURGERY**

**PATIENT PARTICIPTATION GROUP**

**AGM**

**MINUTES**

**Monday 7th March 2016 2016**

1. Present: Katie Styles, Mark Styles, Frances Boucher, Margaret Nevin, Katie Kinnersley (KK), Claire Bonny, Janet Onslow.
2. Apologies: Tara Peacock (retiring Chairperson
3. KK on behalf of Tara Peacock, gave a brief review of the history of the PPG since its formation June 2014

The PPG first started meeting in June 2014, and officers were elected in July 2014.In fact from 1 April 2015, it was a contractual requirement for all English practices to form a patient participation group (PPG) during the year ahead and to make reasonable efforts for this to be representative of the practice population.

In practice, PPGs can play a number of roles, including:

* Advising the practice on the patient perspective
* Organising health promotion events
* Communicating with the wider patient body
* Running volunteer services and support groups to meet local needs

Carrying out research into the views of those who use the practice (and their carers)

* Influencing the practice or the wider NHS to improve commissioning
* Fundraising to improve the services provided by the practice

The purpose primarily of our group was to give the Practice’s patients a voice and a means to be informed about the ongoing changes and developments in the NHS , which have been quite considerable over the last 5 years.

These include:

Establishment of Clinical Commissioning Groups across the UK, whereby financial and clinical decisions were devolved to local clinical commissioning groups made up of GP representatives and the usual beaurocrats employed by them . In East Kent we have 4 CCGs, Canterbury & Coastal, Ashford, South Kent Coast & Thanet. These have replaced the previous Primary Care Groups, and prior to that the local Health Authorities. Old School Surgery belongs to the Canterbury & Coastal CCG, whose members include; The Butchery in Sandwich, Ash Surgery, Boughton Medical Practice, Canterbury Health Centre, Canterbury Medical Practice, Chartham Surgery, Coach House Surgery Herne Bay, Cossington House Surgery, Canterbury, Whitstable Health Centre, Saddleton Road, Whitstable, Dr Logan & Partners, Faversham, New Dover Road Surgery, Newton Road Surgety, Faversham, Northgate Medical Practice, Sturry Surgery, St Annes Group Practice, Herne Bay, The Market Place Surgery, Eastry, Old School Surgery, The Park Surgery, Herne Bay and The University Medical Practice. We attend meetings every two months as the whole group, with each practice sending at least 1 GP and one Practice Manager, and then every other month we attend smaller groups, the Town meetings, which give us a more personal forum. These Town teams are broken down into areas within the Canterbury & Coastal area, Faversham, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Canterbury & rural, we obviously belong to the Canterbury & rural. The local areas discuss issues that are more pertinent to their more local needs, as each area had differing populations and differing problems. At one point it looked as though we might amalgamate with Ashford and then share expenses, but this was rejected on application to NHS England. There is a problem in that we have some conflict when making commissioning decisions as we are providers ourselves, so conflict of interest is inevitable, but strong governance processes are in place to help counter this.

Development of Vanguards. Trialling of new models of care; 29 models which will act as blue prints for the NHS moving forward. They are looking at integration of services particularly health & social care services, coordinated services, moving specialists into the community. The local vanguard project is based at Whitstable Health Centre and is looking to move specialist services out of hospitals into the community.

Seven day working in the NHS. The government has made this a top priority. It was included in the Conservative Party manifesto and the Prime Minister David Cameron made it a key part of his first speech after winning a majority in May, saying [**he wanted to see a truly seven-day service**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32772548). The impact this will have on primary care will be immense for smaller practices such as ourselves obviously, and the only way it could be achieved would be through cooperation with other practices meaning our patients would have to travel to Canterbury. At present they have been trialling 8-8 7 days a week, but have been unable to staff these sessions due to GP shortages to cover the extra hours.

Push towards development of GP practices on larger scales, as practices struggle to cope with the new demands financially and with personnel shortages. Areas used to being served by a number of small practices are seeing them merge to become mega-partnerships with lists covering 100’s of thousands of patients. List sizes have ghrown 28% since 2002, while the number of single handed GPs has plummeted and this trend is now accelerating. In 2015 there was a 500% rise in the number of practices telling NHS Managers that they wished to merge or close, often due to funding cuts or recruitment problems. And now some Practices are taking their future into their own hands by entering talks to form huge super-practices. E.g Whitstable HC, Northgate & Chartham.

Manpower shortages in the NHS, with the current changes we are seeing record numbers of GPs retiring early, seeking employment abroad or just leaving the profession, this is also affecting junior hospital doctors. Recruitment to GP training is struggling to fill places across the country. Changes to funding for nurse training with the introduction of bursaries is threatening nurse recruitment.

The PPG did come in to the Practice during the flu campaign 2014-2015 one Saturday morning to provide health promotion material and information regarding BP, weight and CVD. This was considered a success.

Despite much publicising we are still short on numbers. We have a few virtual members for people who are unable to attend meetings.

1. KK went through the original aims & objectives and terms of reference agreed in July 2014. It was agreed unanimously that they were still appropriate and to be retained as they were. These can be viewed on the practice website.
2. Election of new Officers. New Chairperson elected Katie Styles, nominated by Katie Kinnersley and seconded by Claire Bonny. New Vice-Chairperson elected; Katie Kinnersley, nominated by Katie Styles and seconded by Claire Bonny. New Secretary elected; Frances Boucher; nominated by Katie Kinnersley, seconded by Margaret Nevin.
3. Katie Styles gave a brief speech outlining her continued support for the practice and the endeavour to try and raise the profile of the PPG.
4. A.O.B: Car parking for carers still being charged at Hospital Trust. KS writing to Trust.

It was agreed that the PPG would now meet quarterly on the second Monday of the month. So meetings second Monday in June, September, December.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING SET: Monday 13th June 2016 7.30pm**