



BIRCHWOOD SUPPORT GROUP

Birchwood Medical Practice
 The Health Centre, Kings Road
 Horley.
 RH6 7DG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1.81.2016

Present: Dr. Vijay Kumar (Partner). Christine Earwaker (Practice Manager)

Patient Representatives: Liz James, Joan Robinson, Richard Willcox, Raji Raman, Denise Stronell, TW and MW, Steve Hartnett, Liz Morris, Robin Grant, Tricia Lyons, Rita Cusack, Terry Scott, Ralph Odartey, Lisa White, Jean Marsden, Mike Walshaw, Stella Price

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES	The Group welcomed a new member to the Group Mr. Ralph Odartey. The group introduced themselves individually. Apologies received from Wanda and Gerry Hu.	ACTION
APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES	These were approved.	
REPORT FROM THE PRACTICE (Dr. Vijaykumar)	<p>Registered number of patients: 15,797.</p> <p>Staff update: Dr. Kumar announced there were two new members of the reception staff – one male, one female. Dr. Kumar emphasised the commitment to training the staff which included equality and diversity, mental capacity, information governance and customer service and was a huge part of their employment. Dr. Tom Rustom was now a permanent doctor at Birchwood following his GP training under the guidance of Dr. Nelstrop. Dr. Kandi started in January. Dr. Mel Fegan started approximately two weeks ago. All three doctors worked 3 days each week. A question was asked ‘why not full time’ and Christine said that doctors were more career minded now and studied and worked elsewhere as well working at Birchwood. Dr. Kumar also confirmed that the Birchwood building was now being used to capacity.</p> <p>Influenza vaccines: 3,374 patients had been vaccinated including children. Dr. Kumar explained that for the first time this year chemists could vaccinate the ‘at risk’ group. This made it a little more difficult to establish which Birchwood patients had been vaccinated. He was hopeful this problem will eventually be resolved.</p> <p>Appointments: Although there had been difficulty over the Christmas and new year period it is hopeful that now Birchwood had an extra doctor this should resolve.</p> <p>CQC (Care Quality Commission) visit: Dr. Kumar said Birchwood now had a date for the visit – 4.2.2016.</p>	

<p>ESCCG (Elaine Jackson)</p>	<p>He explained to the Group the importance of this visit for Birchwood and Christine explained what this visit entailed. All procedures needed to be in place and seen by the inspectors (5 people). They would be present for a day and all aspects of the surgery would be scrutinised. Our Patient Group would also be involved. Christine explained the various recommendations that could be reached from shutting a surgery down to putting a surgery in special measures or a surgery could pass in all aspects.</p> <p>Elaine Jackson was asked by the Group to attend. Elaine began by explaining that she herself had helped set up a patient group at her surgery. She informed the meeting that the NHS had 1.4million employees and were the largest employer in Europe.</p> <p>The ESCCG were now under Legal Direction by NHS England and Elaine explained the meaning of this for the local population. It meant that they were working closely with NHS England to manage the deficit to avoid it affecting patients. Addressing the group's concern regarding the funding arrangements and the deficit she explained the funding this year 2016/17 looks better. While this is good news the CCG will need to continue its transformation work at pace to get to a sustainable Local Health economy which involves several other key providers such as the Secondary care trust and community providers.</p> <p>Pressure from groups such as ours engaging with the CCG is always helpful to encourage the wider NHS to think about services from the patients' perspective. This is especially relevant where funding is concerned. Elaine thanked us for our campaign and acknowledged the passion and drive that the group have demonstrated for the good of the NHS. Elaine also thanked the group for involving other practices in this campaign.</p> <p>Elaine and Dr. Kumar explained that from April this year there would be more investment in child mental health services, adult learning and disability services. ESCCG regarded early intervention with these groups would mean saving money further along the line.</p> <p>Elaine asked for any questions. Mike raised patient transport. Elaine confirmed that it was not satisfactory but was subject to procurement currently.</p> <p>The Group thanked Elaine for her attendance given the huge pressure of her job.</p>	
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<p>ESCCG Report (Richard Willcox)</p> <p>SOUTH PARK SURGERY</p>	<p>Richard explained the role of the PRG to the new members of the Group. It was an opportunity for the local East Surrey Patient Groups to be updated with any news from the ESCCG. Richard gave a short précis of what speakers were at the last meeting. Talks were given by Sam Wallace (CQC) on their role in monitoring patient care. Gasson Jacob a pharmacist from Boots on the services now offered by chemists. Karen Norman from St. Catherine's hospice on the wide range of support available.</p> <p>At this point Dr. Kumar confirmed that Birchwood was being used as a pilot for the hospice and they would now have a bereavement counsellor in residence for the doctors to refer Birchwood patients to. .</p> <p>Elaine also mentioned that should be happy for any member to suggest topics for discussion at future PRG meetings. Carole Rowley was the contact. Concern was raised by the group re the possible closure of South Park Surgery and the possible impact on Birchwood. Dr. Kumar confirmed that this surgery was managed by Malling Health, 4,700 patients were affected and was not under the direction of ESCCG but NHS England. At the present time the ESCCG was in discussion with NHS England on the best way forward for these patients healthcare. Christine confirmed that officially the patients were out of Birchwood's catchment area but if all the patients were allocated then this could change. No decision has been made as yet.</p>	
<p>LETTER FROM REIGATE AND BANSTEAD</p>	<p>Terry outlined his contact with Reigate and Banstead and their reply. Their reply was not regarded as giving a satisfactory explanation as to their responsibility for healthcare services given the huge rise in the population following approval of large housing developments locally. Elaine confirmed that a meeting was due to take place in the next couple of weeks between the local councils and ESCCG. Terry asked if he could attend but Elaine thought that this was probably a closed meeting but she would report back.</p>	
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>	<p>Mike asked if we should now have some further education meetings. Suggestions were: Using your Pharmacy, How to Get the Best out of Your NHS and possibly Domestic Abuse.</p> <p>Liz was keen to get a young mum and baby group started.</p> <p>Terry suggested the NHS Choices website feedback email address was not correct but having found it, felt that the comments on the site did not reflect the true service that Birchwood offered.</p>	<p>MW LJ</p>
<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Monday 16th May 2016 6.00pm for 6.15pm start</p>	