**Minutes of Lower Gornal Patient Panel Group**

**Wednesday, 10th July 2024**

**Welcome from the Chair:** The Chair welcomed two new members, Rowena Thomas and Amanda Bayliss. They have both received minutes of past meetings together with our revised constitution and have volunteered to be part of the Group following its promotion within the surgery.

**Present:** Russell Gardner (Practice Manager), David Gill (Chair), Chris Bate (Vice Chair) , Sue Smith, Michael Bowen, Farzana Follows, Elizabeth Carrier, Amanda Bayliss, Rowena Thomas.

**Apologies**: Vikki Webb (Covid), Julie Pitt, Donella Bullas, Barrie Bromley, Helen Newton, Hayley Wright

**Approval of April’s Minutes:** The minutes had been sent round prior to the meeting for correction and they were duly approved.

**Matters Arising from Minutes:**

Pharmacy First: Problems with a local pharmacy, as reported by our PM seems to have improved.

Hiring of Spring’s Church Hall for health talks: The Chair had spoken to Maggie, the Community Link Worker at Springs, but unfortunately their hall is almost fully booked by regular groups for Autumn 2024 but if there is a vacancy then we could hold any talks there.

Letter to local Councillors and MP regarding conversion of rooms in the surgery: This will not now be necessary due to developments shared by our Practice Manager in his report.

**Practice Update from the Practice Manager.**

* Staffing: Dr Malik is due to retire on 31st August 2024. Dr Mohammed Zaman will be working Monday to Wednesday. The trainee doctors will leave at the end of August to be replaced by three more trainees; Dr Onoh, Dr Singh and Dr Malik. Nurse Mihaela is leaving and will be replaced by Sarah Hodgetts who is currently working at the Ridgeway Practice. Update: Zara Raqoob our Physician Associate is leaving on 31st August and will be replaced by a prescribing Community Paramedic William Brown who also starts on 2nd September. He will alternate with our current paramedic Holly Hambletion with Northway Medical Centre
* Friends and Family Survey: The responses from patients following their various appointments are as follows; 179 very good, 37 good, 2 poor, 0 very poor. This serves as a good indicator of patients’ view of their care by the Practice.
* Vaccination Programme: Covid is still around so we anticipate further vaccinations for targeted groups in September. Flu vaccinations are due to begin on 9th September. A new vaccination (RSV) is to be made available for over 75s and expectant mothers. It targets those with respiratory problems.
* Funding Approval from Integrated Care Board: Russell reported that since our last meeting in April a funding stream had become available from the ICB. Our subsequent application has been approved, which means we now have the money to convert the room at the far end of the property, where we currently have our meetings, into an administrative room vacating the space to be made into new clinical areas. There is therefore no need to write to local councillors or the new MP for Dudley. This is good news and well done to all those responsible!
* **Reports from other meetings:** The Chair along with Sue Smith attended a meeting of representatives of the Primary Care Network (PCN) on Tuesday 2nd July. They gave a verbal summary of key points. The Chair will forward the minutes of the PCN Meeting when he receives them from the PM at Ridgeway Surgery. An enlightening presentation was made by Hitesh, who is the senior pharmacist within Dudley. He manages a £60 million budget for prescriptions, advising doctors about medication, budget limits and other issues.
* **Newsletter:**
* **Patient Issues and Questions:**

**Date of next meeting: 30th October at 6pm at Bull Street Practice**