

Milton Surgery Patient Participation Group

Date: 22 November 2016
Time: 7 pm
Venue: Milton Surgery

a. Present:

Pam Vincett (PV) practice manager
Chris Thomas (CT) committee member
Sue Nunn (SN) committee member
Bryan Betson (BB) chairperson
Sally Bradley (SB) committee member
Hazel Smith (HS) committee member
Jane Coston (JC) committee member
Eileen Henderson (EH) committee member
Bob Payne (BP) committee member
Angie Carpenter (AC) secretary

b. Apologies:

John Uttin
Barry Line
Frankie Williams
Norma Kay

c. Acceptance of last minutes.

d. Further developments on funding for the Community Café (CC)

BB advised us that there will be a meeting tomorrow regarding what funding the CC committee requires for the next year/s. Andy Gray, chair of Milton Charities would like the CC committee via BB to advise him what monies they would like to request. BB will contact Milton Charities following information received from CT. CT and SN reported that once acquired, any monies left over from the running of the CC could be put towards an event, or as a gift for those attending. The CC (CH) report that they are currently making a small loss. Currently monies go towards transport, food and hall hire. There are currently approximately 16 visitors to the café per month and each pays £2 for tea/coffee and cake, and the opportunity to meet other people from the village in a warm, friendly setting.

CT reports that Tesco were once involved in supplying, free ingredients etc, it was also said CT would contact Tesco again as HS said other organisations had managed to successfully secure help from Tesco recently. He and SN will investigate other forms of funding to help support the CC. Such as the Cambs Community Fund, who handle monies from people who want to give to charities. As it is important to the CC that as many people as possible have the opportunity to come to the café, it was suggested that, as well as targeting the actual event, that extra funding might go towards advertising the café better.

e. How to generate interest in a Health Fair for 2017:

Lengthy discussions took place regarding the possibility of a Health Fair (HF) next year. It was felt that the HF this year was very worthwhile even though it had a relatively small attendance. All in the group felt it was a worthwhile venture and that something similar next year would be of benefit to the Milton Surgery community.

Milton Primary School has a Healthy Eating week each year, and in 2017 it will take place between the 12 – 16 June. The school runs a grand event which offers stalls and a programme of events for the children, involving their families too. The possibility of providing stalls, or even an event such as a BBQ (based around healthy living) during this week was discussed. This in place of holding a stand-alone event by the PPG. Most felt that this would be a good idea, and would target children, parents, grandparents and friends of the school.

PV suggested the possibility of concentrating on one aspect of health such as 'looking after yourself', thus providing the PPG with a clear focus and various possibilities. We were advised that the Community Hall has a new defibrillator, and that maybe someone could come along and teach the basics to adults? Whatever may be decided, BP felt that whatever we offer needs to be attractive to kids, such as participative games, and that PPG group members and others should be encouraged to participate in any organization.

30 minute slots for visitors may be a good idea, such as activity groups, smoking advice persons, defibrillator training, youth groups.

BB advised that as this generated so much discussion this year, that the Health Fair (or similar) should be included in the next agenda (Jan 17) for further discussion and planning.

f. Update/progress on prescription change situation

PV advised the group of the changes to prescription issue. Patients can nominate a pharmacy for their prescription to go to. This may be any pharmacy. If the patient is new to Milton, however, a prescription may be sent to the last requested pharmacy, so patients are advised to ensure when changing GP's they also change their nominated pharmacy! It was acknowledged that this may cause some difficulty, especially for the elderly, but that assistance will be available for anyone with problems.

Home delivery of medicines was discussed, and the group advised that some pharmacies offer a home delivery service to patients, particularly those who are older, house bound or disabled. This service could be of benefit to some of our patients if available in Milton. Known to be available at Waterbeach and Boots.

g. Way Forward:

Keeping the public aware:

JC and CT advised the group that it is our responsibility to ensure that the public are kept aware of these changes to the NHS, in our case the people of Milton, as we become aware of them. These minutes of course are available on-line, and as a paper copy in the surgery, but both suggested using 'Village View' as a channel for informing patients at Milton Surgery.

Community Café funding

Hot off the press: BB reports that he has obtained funding for the CC from Milton Charities for the coming year.

Health Fair 2017

Further discussions to take place early next year.

h. Any Other Business:

Federating:

PV advised the group that it is still early days, but that they are working towards a final plan. It is universally agreed that sharing expertise, purchasing, training etc makes total sense, and that there is clear evidence being part of a larger group helps all the above. Next meeting for this will take place 8/12/16.

Choirs in the locality:

PV discussed the 'singing group' in Landbeach and was asking if this group still met regularly. The group was advised that they still meet as a group for people with mental health problems and their carers.

Physiotherapy

BB asked if this is currently available. PV advised not at this moment but there is a self-help number that you can ring.

Savings in the NHS:

PV advised the group that 'look after yourself' is top of the agenda for next year. There will be a 'Self-Care week' which is supported by an excellent information pack for the surgery to implement. Some recommendations have been made such as avoiding making GP appointments for prescriptions only wherever possible, and for over the counter medicines to be used in place of prescribed medicines where appropriate. All in aid of reducing the large deficit in NHS spending, but also encouraging patients to take more responsibility for their own health.

5 year plan

PV reports that a 5 year plan for the NHS, Social Services, Councils across the UK, has almost been decided although at this time the public have not been consulted. One committee member reports a particular problem with the loss of care homes run by local councils and social services, leaving the NHS with a lack of beds for elderly people, and which needs to be addressed. HS advised the group that the second phase of the plan will involve council involvement in health and social care.

Over use of A&E departments

PV discussed the over use of A&E departments, by the public, thus (incorrectly) avoiding a visit to the GP. This as an issue must be tackled better. She reminded us of the walk-in facility at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Ely, that is available for the public to use.

Appointments

PV also advised us on the availability of appointments currently, and reassured the group that there are always emergency appointments available on the day, and that if a patient needs to be seen same day, they will be seen.

i. Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 January 2017, at 7pm,
Milton Surgery

