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|  | *BIRCHILLS HEALTH CENTRE* |
|  | *23-37 Old Birchills* |
|  | *Walsall* |
| ***Dr A.S. Suri & Partners*** | *West Midlands* |
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**MINUTES FROM THE PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP MEETING**

**MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2016 at 6:45pm**

**Present**

Richard Dean (PPG Chair) [richard\_dean8@btinternet.com](mailto:richard_dean8@btinternet.com)

Lisa Parkes [lisa.parkes@walsall.nhs.uk](mailto:lisa.parkes@walsall.nhs.uk)

Dr A S Suri [avtar.suri@walsall.nhs.uk](mailto:avtar.suri@walsall.nhs.uk)

Mahesh Pancholi [birchillsnews77@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:birchillsnews77@hotmail.co.uk)

Michael Price [mikeprice5454@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mikeprice5454@yahoo.co.uk)

Lisa Price [lisaannmitton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lisaannmitton@yahoo.co.uk)

David Lawrence [yorathdude@live.co.uk](mailto:yorathdude@live.co.uk)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Richard welcomed the group members, and thanked them for attending.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Glenys Davis and John Davis.

**Notes and Actions from previous meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were circulated via email to all that attended the last meeting.

* The new PPG Chair stamp has been delivered and it was passed around the group so everyone could see it
* The Alcohol Awareness cards are being designed at present and will be circulated to the group once the Clinicians are happy with it.
* We now have the NAPP website registration details (see below).
* The GPAQ is complete but we are still in the process of collating the information to produce the report

**Feedback from the PPG Chair**

* Urgent Care Centre (***UCC***)Town Centre site– there should be interpreters available via the phone when necessary as it will be difficult to get interpreters into the Centre due to the nature of the conditions they treat. There is a potential fire hazard as the fire exit doesn’t seem to be very good, it is not disabled friendly (there is only a ramp at the front entrance). The Manor site will be able to carry out urgent blood tests if required. The UCC should not be treated as a replacement for GP Surgeries and patients will be educated regarding this. Patients should contact their GP surgery first via whatever methods are available to them (phone, in person and in future, via e-consult). The UCC will not be carrying out any dressings or dental treatments. There have been a lot of complaints about the closure of the Walk In Centre and the loss of the services that it provided. The Council blame funding cuts for this.
* From March, all Opticians should be providing a service for minor eye problems. The CCG will be providing leaflets for GP surgeries to display.
* CCG news
  + There are currently 2 Federations in Walsall; Walsall Alliance and Palmaris Ltd. Other federations from Sandwell and Wolverhampton have taken a few Walsall GP Surgeries to join theirs. Palmaris Ltd have organised for their GP surgeries to be open over the Easter Bank Holiday although this shouldn’t be necessary, according to Dr Suri.
  + CCGs may end up merging together themselves, if the budget cuts continue
  + Cancer Drug companies are being asked to cut the costs of the drugs to a more affordable price.

**Cuts in Mental Health Service**

Dr Suri was able to provide the group with some information regarding the cuts in mental health.

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust has been told they need to reduce their budget by another £5million, down to £20million in total and still provide all of their current services.

Currently, the Psychology waiting list is 6 weeks, patients aged 17years+ and suffering from their 1st mental health episode will be seen within 2 weeks and patients for Talking Therapy Services are to be seen within 6 weeks.

There will be more funding in children’s services. Several schools will be given training to detect early mental health problems in children.

It seems that Crisis Resolution and Early Access Services aren’t working and may be stopped in the future.

There will be a CPN (Community Psychiatric Nurse) and a Social Worker attached to each GP surgery, allowing one point of contact.

**CQC Report**

This report has recently been published. It considered the Manor Hospital’s services to be inadequate. New people may be elected to run the hospital which could result in a complete shake-up with new staff and even possibly the CCG being removed and replaced with a new governing body.

There have been no improvements with the A&E waiting times since the UCC started. It may take some time for this to improve.

**NAPP Website and Login details**

Members to log in and feed back to the group at the next meeting

Website: [www.napp.org.uk](http://www.napp.org.uk)

Email: [birchillshcadmin@walsall.nhs.uk](mailto:birchillshcadmin@walsall.nhs.uk)

Password: bluebird61

**Annual GPAQ Results**

The results for these will be available in the next meeting. After helping us to get the questionnaires completed, David suggested having some translated into the most common foreign languages to help increase the number of responses.

**NICE Guidance**

1. The release of the new document on diabetes indicates that there will be more work for GPs. It is considered that 80% of the population are pre-diabetic and GPs are asked to monitor patients closely to try and prevent it. Educating patients and agreeing to targets is key if they are to achieve this. Public Health are working to improve patients’ health and reduce diabetes.
2. NICE have reassessed the relative risk of HRT for Menopause. Patients may only take it for a couple of years and any risk during that time will remain minimal. If HRT is taken for a longer period of time, then the risk of Cancer reduces after a couple of years from stopping HRT treatment.

**Any Other Business**

1. It was suggested that the NHS could work with mosques and temples etc. to help educate patients as they are more likely to listen to their religious leaders about medical issues.
2. We will elect a new Chair and Vice Chair at the next meeting

**Actions**

* To send the minutes of the meeting as soon as they are available
* To circulate the Alcohol Awareness information cards when the draft copy is available
* To ask members’ availability for having the meetings in an afternoon rather than an evening

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th April 2016 at 6.30pm (meeting to start at 6.45pm prompt)