

SHERWOOD HEALTH CENTRE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

19th October 2011 6.30pm

Present:

Tim Bell, Bas Blatchford, Paul Brady, John Chapman, Helen Greig, Jim Greig, Dave Groom, John Hackett (Chair), Ian Hewitt, Betty Higgins, Jeremy Jago, Amanda Roberts, Pauline Sault, Val Sullivan, Pat Tomlinson, Dr. Trimble, Pam Ward.

Minutes:

Introductions were made and it was agreed that John Hackett would chair both the afternoon meetings and evening meetings, which would be alternate months.

NHS changes

Dr Trimble explained the current situation with regard to NHS changes.

a) Nationally

The bill has passed it's second reading in the House of Lords and is now at Committee stage in the Lords. This means it is likely to become an act in this session of parliament. There are still many concerns around accountability, Privatisation (any qualified provider), restructuring seems to have produced more layers and involvement of more statutory bodies and efficiency savings seem in doubt as a result.

There has been a series of articles in the Guardian this week about the nHS changes. The fact that Nottinghamshire County have closed a couple of walk-in clinics has been mentioned.

b) With regard to Nottingham city (our area)

PCTs are now clustered and effectively superseded. The Strategic Health Authority is now merged with the East of England and West of England to make one covering a population equal to that of Belgium.

There are no proposed cuts to services locally. Newly commissioned pathways for direct access for alcoholics, counselling, orthopaedics and eye problems should mean quicker treatment with cost savings.

Public Health will be moving from NHS control to that of the Local Authority in April 2013.

There is some confusion over all the different bodies and their remit – for instance the Health and Well being Board and the Scrutiny Committee.

Specific questions:

Ian asked about Hayward House and where it stands in all the reorganisations.

Val asked about LinKs and Healthwatch. The lines between City and County LinKs seem blurred.

Ian suggested a diary being published of all the groups with PPI, showing dates and responsibilities.

Dave asked about the Treatment Centre and rumours circulating. The procurement process is started but takes 18 months and then the tendering process should be open up. At the moment the service is good but well over budget (£50m per annum) . Since the staff is seconded from NHS changes resulting in redundancy could have massive financial implications.

Bas asked about anticipated cuts in services. Dr Trimble responded that none were expected in our practice. Community matrons and long term disease support is expected to continue and maybe even expand. Referrals are down 5% but emergency treatment continues to rise. Bas responded that it maybe that the services are being provided with deteriorating skill mix.

Paula asked from where specific savings may come. Drug prescribing, freeing up some beds by caring for some mental health patients in the community and lots of little savings, responded Dr Trimble. Health inflation is higher than fiscal inflation because of raised expectations, an aging population and more expensive interventions.

Ian asked about the Citycare suite of services.

Tim asked for, and got, reassurance that waiting times were not suffering.

Any Other Business:

John C suggested that efforts to publicise this meeting to all patients should be made via a newsletter. Dr Trimble will check with Mary that they are always available on the front desk.

John H suggested that several websites should be cross referenced if you are looking for information on NHS changes. Some sites to look at are: Keep our NHS public: 38 degrees.

The changes to the practice name becoming Elmswood Surgery are on going.

Pam mentioned the press article about whole families being struck off GP's lists. Last time anyone was struck off this practice's list was in 1994 for violence.

Dave asked if some of the patient representatives from other of the health statutory bodies could come and explain to this group what they were doing. We should demand dialogue with them. Some discussion centred around the fact that none of them is elected.

Next Meeting:

Friday 11th November 2011 2pm when Tracie Baker of Patient Experiences will talk to us

Wednesday, 14th December 2011 6.30pm

Minutes taken by: Amanda Roberts