

SHERWOOD HEALTH CENTRE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

9th September 2011

Present:

Ken Brown, Malcolm Fisher, Helen Greig, Jim Greig, John Hackett (Chair), Betty Higgins, Stephanie James, Dr. Malik, Amanda Roberts, Mary Simpson (Practice Manager), Pat Tomlinson, Dr. Trimble, Pam Ward.

Apologies:

Jean Fisher, Val Sullivan.

Minutes:

Minutes are now posted on the Practice website.

Amanda Roberts agreed to take over production of Minutes from the October Meeting.

Guest Speaker:

John Hackett welcomed Stephanie Jones from "Last Orders" (alcohol services).

Stephanie explained that she is a Clinical Nurse Specialist working in the Service half time, with the other half of her time spent on Health Promotion for the service. She also explained that Nottingham has one of the highest rates in the Country for hospital admissions attributable to alcohol issues. The Government set up an initiative for early interventions (trying to intervene pre-dependency) and the money has been directed at cities like Nottingham, Liverpool, Manchester etc.

"Last Orders" went through the tender process for the initiative last year and now have a contract for three years, extendable to five. Since April all referrals for services connected to alcohol issues have to go via Last Orders, there is no other route.

Stephanie distributed a range of leaflets and information materials. The Team are based at the NEMS healthcare centre on Upper Parliament Street. They also do clinics across the City including at Sherwood Health Centre. People can be referred via their G.P. or can self – refer. Where G.P.s refer, the team try to ensure feedback. Stephanie stated that they have seen some 1,000 people since set-up in April. As previously stated the aim is to try to work with people before they become "dependent" on alcohol. Stephanie talked about the problems that can be caused by excess drinking, eg raised blood pressure, liver function problems.

Stephanie also talked about the range of people being seen , eg students, single people, older people etc and the varied reasons for excess drinking and the different approaches taken, eg work at the university to intervene with new students. She also talked about the higher alcohol content now of most wines and the easy and cheap availability of “industrial quality” cider for instance.

As well as a general assessment service and an assessment service for the Courts the Team also provide a non-specialised structured treatment service, seeing people on a weekly basis. Also provided/referred for is a “Recovery” service and an “abstinence” service by Step Ahead at the YMCA (12 step approach). Oxford Corner (run by the Mental Health Trust) sees people with a range of issues and high dependency. Residential services are provided by The Priory who offer a two week inpatient de-tox service. Young people (under 18s) are seen by Compass but there are now clear links to allow clients to move between services.

There followed some further discussion. Although most medical services are expected to “feel the pinch” over the coming months, Stephanie pointed out that Public Health Issues – and as stated earlier this is a significant issue for Nottingham – are more likely to be ringfenced. Any future commissioning will be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board when fully operative.

Stephanie pointed out that alcohol issues are generally strongly linked to deprivation and health inequalities with the biggest problems in the most deprived wards of the city.

Stephanie was thanked for her informative and interesting contribution.

Any Other Business:

Betty Higgins raised issues arising out of a recent “Panorama” programme about the “Over use?” of Angiograms in a particular area i.e. West Sussex. Not many of us had seen this but Dr. Trimble commented that he did not feel this was an issue locally but that we had the facility for prompt referral for this life saving treatment.

Dr. Trimble advised that the practice are still considering a name change for the Centre following Dr. Black’s retirement – eponyms are to be avoided and something simple preferred – possibly Elmswood Health Centre? Watch this space!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 19th October @ **6.30p.m.**

Minutes taken by: Pam Ward.