**Bottisham Medical Practice Patients’ Group**

**Chair’s Report: AGM 30 April 2019**

The Patients’ Group (PG) Committee has continued to meet bi-monthly since the last AGM. Currently there are 6 members representing patients from Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck, and Fulbourn – at present we have no representative from the Wilbrahams, Quy, Lode or Swaffham Prior. Unfortunately, committee member Liz Mitchel passed away last year. Meetings generally have good attendance which includes a doctor from the Practice, or the Dispensary Manager or the Practice Manager or representative. Meetings are held in the practice waiting room and the dates are published in the village magazines.

**Activities**

Since the last AGM the Group has:

* Continued working with our new Practice Manager and his admin team to communicate with patients by updating web pages on its website and the notice board in the surgery waiting room.
* Continued to send monthly articles to village magazines in Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Lode, and Fulbourn, and quarterly to Quy and the Wilbrahams, publicising the work of the PG, Practice news, health education messages and current NHS matters.
* Assisted patients at the Practice’s autumn flu clinics, enabling the nurses to work more quickly .The PG also raised funds with Tombola and a cake stall at the flu clinics with contributions from the Primary School. This is to increase funds to buy medical equipment. Also, we had a successful stall at the Bottisham WI, centenary fete.
* Continued with the *Health Walking Group* which has not been supported as much through this year despite several new members joining. The walks start from the Practice entrance at 11.00 and are usually held twice a month, details in village magazines and practice notice board. We have continued being members of the *Heart Beat Healthy Walks* scheme in partnership with the National Trust at Anglesey Abbey, leaving on Thursdays at 10.00 from the visitor reception.
* Continued to work with the Patients’ Car Service for those patients who have no other means of getting to the surgery. Together with Janet Aves, the Coordinator, we have now increased the cover to 5 days a week since February, and have cover available for on the day, short notice appointments. It would be nice to have a few more drivers as Bottisham rota is running a bit short.
* Been active on the Cam Health Patient Forum of PPG chairs in the Cambridge group of practices. This has now evolved to a new meeting forum encompassing a wider group of GP Practices and called the Cambridge Area Patient Group
* Continued our membership of the National Association for Patient Participation (NAPP) whose bulletins are available on our notice board.
* We have been working closely with RED to Green charity, which, now have space on a shared notice board with our own information. They have opened the community Cafe and we have been involved with monthly workshops and drop in sessions. These have yet to get a lot of interest from carers.

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**Main patient participation contributions to BMP’s work**

* Continued to attempt to widen participation in PG activities: the New Patients’ Pack includes a Patients’ Group registration form which encourages membership of the Virtual Patients’ Group. I, as chairman, contact new patients if they agree to invite them to join our group.

**Red Bucket Appeal**

* We are now running an appeal to increase funds to be able to purchase medical equipment. Last year we had a target of funding the purchase of a surgery POD as suggested by the doctors. However on further investigation, it is generally felt that this technology will soon be out dated. We are therefore planning to purchase some much needed medical equipment being requested by the medical staff that does not require such a large investment.

**Future Plans**

* In the coming year the PG plans to work even harder to increase participation from a wider age-range of patients and local care organisations and to make the committee more representative of the Practice’s patient profile. The Patients’ Group enjoys a good working relationship with Practice staff, who welcome patients offering their ideas and perspectives on services provided, both in primary and secondary care.

Steve Gilson

Chair: Bottisham Patients’ Group

29th April 2019