

PPG Virtual meeting, 2pm 1.9.20

Attendees: Peter, Helen, Judy, David, Marion, Yasmin, Sheena. Apologies: Kate and Chris

The meeting got off to a slightly shaky start but we all grasped the technology. Yasmin's camera wasn't working. This virtual meeting was an informal one to allow us to catch up and test any teething problems for future zoom meetings.

PPG members reported that they had managed well during lockdown.

Practice report

Helen reported that the arrangements for Covid-19 lockdown had worked well but this week had been manic.

Staffing

Elizabeth has retired and had a good send off, albeit at a distance. 2 new HCAs have been appointed: Julie Elliott FT, new to general practice and Jan [] from a health care background. Lynne is back working her former hours. All training will have to be done on line with coaching from Lynne and Marcia. Julia is still on sick leave. Elinor (?spelling?) left the practice in March to care for her children in lockdown.

Suzanne Gregory is still on MATL and will return PT in April 2021. A GP was interviewed by zoom and will be offered a salaried position to start 2 days pw in November / December. She brings skills in diabetes and family planning and will relocate to Reading. This brings the staffing level up to 5 salaried GPs.

Staffing during lockdown is based on 4 doctors per day (1 in each centre, 2 WFH) and 1 nurse. Reports that the surgeries were not staffed were not accurate.

Services

Social distancing is more manageable at Green Rd as entry is managed by the receptionist and the intercom. Patients have been very understanding but the winter and bad weather will make waiting in the car park difficult. PPG asked that the signs on the door could be made clearer.

A dummy run for over 65s 'flu vaccinations will take place in Woodley on Saturday 26 September to test the patient entry and exit traffic arrangements. The plan is for 3 nurses to see a patient every 3 minutes. If it works smoothly the 'flu jab will be advertised. Helen reported that she had 2,500-3,000 vaccines. If the NHS advises vaccinations for over 55s the practice will need 6,500 doses, not currently available. Much will depend on the forecast for 'flu infection based on the winter experience in Australia.

Everyone is concerned about the combination of 'flu and Covid-19. The current pandemic is not expected to ease within 12 months, even if a vaccine is released. An increase in mental health problems is anticipated: child and parental anxiety about return to school and loneliness in the elderly.

Green Road Building work

Work has yet to start. There have been problems with BT and a TPO (not mentioned in the planning permission) restricting digging, but RBC has now suspended the TPO until construction is over. More concerning is the Bank has limited the loan based on a reduced property valuation for the site. Helen

is looking at how to cut corners without compromising disabled access and clinical care controls and standards.

Future meetings

It was decided to hold meetings by zoom on the first Monday of every other month at 2pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday 5 October. the meeting code will be sent in advance.

Sheena 2.9.20