

Minutes of the Bradford on Avon and Melksham Patients' Participation Group Annual General Meeting held at United Church, 10 St Margaret's Street, Bradford on Avon.
On Tuesday 24th September 2024

1. Apologies were received from

Chris Mullins, Marlene Howell and Denise Ramsey. 17 members were present.

2. Introduction

Sue Denmark acting chair introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The current committee members introduced themselves and Sue introduced Jenny Parker a former social worker and current councilor who will be standing for the committee, and Ian Lafferty, Public Governor of The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) who was to speak about his Role and current developments at RUH.

3. What does a Governor do?

Ian Lafferty, one of two Public Governors elected for South Wiltshire, gave a short talk introducing the role of a public Governor within the RUH Foundation Trust.

A Governor is a volunteer but is elected to the position.

Represents interests - views -listens to concerns

Helps shape the way services are delivered

Has an advisory role

Keeps the public informed about latest developments (The press tend to focus on the negatives so it's important to counterbalance with the positives)

Helps grow the relationship with South Wiltshire.

Is involved in the appointment of The Chair, Chief Executive and Non executives (all paid positions with legal responsibilities) and has a responsibility to hold the Non-executive Directors to account.

Is part of the assessment team for internal ward accreditation

Attends quarterly council and Governance meetings

Observes public Board meetings and committee meetings

Participates in own working groups

Leaflets were available for all and Ian encouraged everyone to become a member of the RUH foundation trust which allows you to vote for the Governors, and receive newsletters. It is free and the Trust needs members as it is a requirement of the establishment of a Foundation Trust.

The Future

Looking at a double triage system for A & E. i.e. would patients be better going directly to another service or another hospital?

Currently looking at other areas to see if there are successful methods in place to help with the current ambulance waiting problems.

GPs have direct access to emergency medical and surgical admissions.

The Devizes health care centre is now being used more extensively.

Attendees were asked to write down any questions they had and the PPG would forward them to Ian who would feed back to the PPG.

4. Report from the Chair

See attached

5. Report from the Treasurer

See finance report attached

6. Election of the PPG Management Committee

The meeting agreed that the officers would be appointed at the first committee meeting from the elected committee members.

Elected members

Chris Steel, Ethel Johnson, Sue Bacon, Sue Denmark, Nick Lilwall, Robin Isaacs, Anthony Jones, Jenny Parker, Mary Tappin (Hillary Etheridge, Heather Moody not present)

7. Practice Information

The Practice plans to have the new internet site up and running by the end of October 2024. It is based on a format used by most GP practices and looks like the NHS App. and web pages. The PPG will have a dedicated PPG page which will include a joining form.

8. Vaccinations

The practice vaccination programme for this autumn includes RSV (Respiratory virus) for 75-79 The age group for which it is most effective. Shingles, flu and Covid.

9. Electronic Prescribing Known as “Squirrel”

This is only applicable for certain patients and is an annual repeat prescription service. Eligible patients will be or have been notified.

The perceived advantages are:-

Hassle free, synchronised, saves time, responsive to needs e.g. holidays.

Before distributing pharmacists should ask some basic questions.

To date feedback from carers has been positive.

Individual feedback noted that they had been given all their medication and not just the ones they needed. ?

Training issue for Pharmacy Staff.

For more detailed practice information please see attached document slides [**NEEDED**]

10. Recycling

It was noted that Superdrug in Trowbridge will take bubble packs for tablets.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the PPG will be Tuesday 3rd. December