

## **PRUDHOE PPG**

Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### **Minutes**

Present : - Eileen Asbury, Dr Ann Egan, Elaine Heane, Andy Gill, Alan Greenall, Lindsay Hopkins, Peter Kerry, Tony Reid

Apologies: - Chloe Heslop, Tony Hockey, Sandra MacKinnon

1. It was suggested that the role of 'Chair' be rotated alphabetically (by Christian Name) to share the load. It was felt that some continuity might be lost regarding contacts. However Alan will still prepare the agenda and liaise with other groups. Andy will chair the next meeting in December.
2. The new Practice Receptionist Deborah Hall was introduced to the group. She has worked in other local Practices and within the NHS.
3. Tara Twigg is trying to see what response there would be to a joint meeting of all the North West Northumberland Patient Groups. They would be run and chaired by the groups with an offer of admin support. Lindsay to report back on the progress.
4. The Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has financial difficulties after taking on debts from the financing of the new Hexham Hospital. It is planned to ally with one of the following-
  1. Newcastle Gateshead CCG
  2. Price Waterhouse Cooper
  3. Northumberland County Council

A Medical Group meeting was taking place at NCC this evening – Tony Reid to find out more information.

5. The Fleetwood Self Care Project

The project aimed to give a programme of self care to the local population when it was found to have a life expectancy of 7 years below the national average. This was initiated by a Medical Professional. All current information available was found to be disjointed. It is suggested that we have a similar plan in Prudhoe. A group Brainstorming session came up with various suggestions on who may be able to assist - Waterworld, The East Centre, P.E. teachers and cooks from local schools, U3A, Sheila Robson (Keep Fit Classes), Greggs, Co-op, Pharmacies, other Practices, Health Walks, Pub Watch, Hairy Biker (Si King), Sure Start, Taryn Whitley (Talking Matters). Fleetwood to be approached for more details and to ask for publicity from the Hexham Courant. View to do an event in Prudhoe in the Spring.

6. **Speaker** – Andrew Nicholson from the Wylam Pharmacy – a talk on ‘A Day in the life of a Pharmacist’.

An informative and enlightening talk on Andrew’s personal approach to his work as a Retail Pharmacist. This included Prescribing, including Electronic transfers, Appliances, and the MUR scheme, Medical User Review. He stated his concerns over the wastage of medicines by Patients. In 2005 813 million items were dispensed which had escalated by 2016 to one billion items. This is due to people living longer and G.P.’s being more proactive. He would like to see a minimal prescription charge paid by all. He also detailed the failure of trials with Hub Dispensing.

He has agreed to talk at a future meeting.

**Next Meeting** – 8<sup>th</sup> December 5.30 pm