

## Minutes of a meeting of the Fairford PPG held via zoom on 21 January 2021

Those present

John Read - Chair and Secretary  
Diane Piatek - Practice Secretary and Partner  
Margaret Bishop - Patient  
Judith Butler - Patient  
Sarah Harrison - GRCC Community Wellbeing  
Cllr Amanda Jeffries - Fairford Town Council  
Alison Watkins-Nash - Patient  
Cllr Stephen Andrews - CDC, CFR and HOSC

### 1. Apologies

Jennie Sanford, Graham Hewitt,

2. Minutes of last meeting - these were approved and there were no matters arising.

### 3. Surgery briefing by Diane

- a. Vaccination priority levels actioned – the Vaccination Programme is being organised centrally by the South Cotswold Primary Care Network (PCN). All five GP practices in the area are working together to deliver this programme with clinics currently being held at Cirencester Hospital.
  - All practices have contacted patients in priority groups 1 and 2 and are currently finalising booking appointments for patients in group 3.
  - Housebound patient vaccinations are not being organised at present by the surgery but centrally by Gloucestershire Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust and further details are still awaited on their rollout and delivery. The Primary Care Network are following this up as a matter of priority.
  - All care homes in the Primary Care Network have been contacted and vaccinations are due completion by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021.
  - The next priority vaccination group for patients over 70 or who are clinically extremely vulnerable will be contacted in the coming weeks based on vaccine availability as the Government target is to have all such patients offered a vaccine by mid-February.
  - When the vaccine availability is confirmed, the practices contact patients by telephone and book an appointment for them at Cirencester Hospital (often at very short notice.) An online booking system will also be introduced in the coming weeks with patients being able to book a vaccination appointment directly at Cirencester hospital and details of this will be publicised once the known.
  - The surgery was experiencing a large number of telephone enquiries from patients about vaccinations and this was blocking the telephone lines for patients that needed to speak to a doctor, so patients are urged to avoid such calls

particularly enquiries about which vaccine is used as the surgery has no knowledge of this.

- Currently there are no plans to vaccinate at the surgery as it is mandated that vaccines are given from one site at a Primary Care Network hub.
  - Reactions to the programme so far had been extremely favourable.
  - Some minor vaccine side effects had been reported by patients who had had the vaccine. Patients can also log any adverse reactions on the following national website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>
  - Plans for second vaccinations are not yet known. Diane reported that the number of positive cases of COVID were going down in the Cotswold area as was the trend nationally.
- b. Take up of the vaccine - Diane reported that the take-up of the vaccine so far been nearly 100%
- c. Non COVID patient care - the surgery continues to operate as normal with referrals made to secondary care as required.
- d. Use of social media – delivering messages / updates to patients via the PPG social media account worked really well. Covid vaccination press releases and updates are released centrally by the CCG and by the Primary Care Network which are shared with the PPG and publicised on the practice website. The practice website update dated 7<sup>th</sup> January was still applicable. Reminding patients to avoid telephoning the surgery unnecessarily to enquire about the vaccination programme was welcomed, as all eligible patients in the priority groups would be contacted in due course based on the vaccine availability.
- e. Other possible actions by the PPG - Diane thanked the PPG for their help with social media press releases. No further volunteer support was required at the Primary Care Network hub at this time.
- f. John thanked Diane for a very full and helpful report on the current COVID 19 situation
4. NAPP - Amanda and Alison reported that the initiative by NAPP to set up information exchange groups which allowed up to ten members of a PPG to take part was to be welcomed though they were unsure if there were any costs attached.
5. AOB - John gave a brief report on the Community Wellbeing Action Group and its work on governance with the GRCC, Barnwood Trust and FTC.

The meeting went on to discuss Sarah's work on Social Prescribing. She noted that there had been an increase in mental health problems and that there had also been evidence of a certain amount of stress where volunteers had been receiving ever increasing requests for non-essential work by those being supported. Sarah was able to help by contacting those able to provide help - such as befriending - and there were

a number of organisations who could provide mental health support. Clients were encouraged also to join groups. John would be asking Chris Roberts and Roz Moreton (FTC Asst Town Clerk) if there was a list of such local groups.

Amanda reported that volunteers recruited by FTC during the first lockdown were still keen to provide support but there seemed less call for this and it was often difficult to identify a useful role for them.

Judith reported that the WI had recruited more members during the lockdown as people were keen to join a group which could provide sociable companionship. Fairford now had 50 members and members were phoned once a week to maintain contact and zoom meetings were held.

Margaret reported that she had been co-opted onto the U3A committee and they were now holding monthly meetings via zoom.

6. DONM - Stephen undertook to find a suitable date and time for the next meeting. This would be from 1st March. It was noted that Thursday afternoon was Diane's preferred option.

John thanked Stephen for this and for hosting the zoom meeting.