

Leyburn Medical Practice PPG

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the Practice at 16.30 on Tues 9 May 2023

Attendance – Dr Fox, Alison Binks, Nigel Watson, Sue Medley (Chair), Geoff Linehan and Judy Metcalfe.

Apologies – June Stancombe, Eva Stone, David Bolam.

Declarations – None.

Minutes of last meeting – Approved.

Correspondence/Meetings – None to report.

General Matters

Covid boosters - The spring boosters were being offered to Thornborough Gardens and Kirkwood residents, the housebound and to those identified as unable to travel. There was insufficient demand for a Leyburn clinic, with patients directed to Hawes or Catterick. The Leyburn pharmacy cited space and staffing shortages for being unable to offer boosters in town. A winter booster programme was being proposed for the same cohort eligible for flu jabs.

Pharmacy prescribing initiative – Dr Fox outlined the proposed scheme. While there was a place for it, there was some concern that the restriction on pharmacies prescribing for the O60s would result in referrals back to GPs.

Monitoring practice performance

People - Dr Rachel Tibbets, whose husband was one of the current Registrars, has been appointed to replace Dr Brown and will begin work in June. Dr Matt Ansell, a newly qualified GP, with a specialist interest in dermatology, has been appointed to replace Dr Jamieson, who is leaving at the end of June, and will start work in September.

Demand for appointments is consistently high, partly because GPs are responding to overstretched hospitals, but patients can obtain an appointment on the day they contact the surgery.

Proposed changes in GP funding will reduce the current list of indicators for the Impact and Investment Fund from 36 to 5, including (states NHS online) two indicators related to flu vaccinations, learning disability health checks, early cancer diagnosis and 2-week access indicator. These are worth £59 million in total, with the balance of the fund, worth £246 million, will be 'entirely focused on improving patient experience of contacting their practice and receiving a response with an assessment and/or be seen within the appropriate period (for example same day or within 2 weeks where appropriate, depending on urgency)'. Currently, there are no details for how this will be monitored or put into practice.

Telephone message – Dr Laybourne will re-record the message.

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Raising awareness

Speakers - Gill Schofield will be invited to attend the next meeting and it was also agreed to invite Dr Jack Hobbs or another of the current Registrars to speak about their experience of the practice before they leave.

Website – no progress.

AGM – a date will be proposed for early September.

PPG Awareness Week (31 May-5 June) – Leaflets had been prepared and a table would be made available.

Other matters

The Blue Book – This summary of activities and support for older people in N Yorkshire was circulated.

Little White Car Service – This service available for booking in advance and covering journeys from the local area to hospitals, etc, for people otherwise finding difficulty travelling had just been launched as a six-month pilot scheme. (However, the report in Richmondshire Today states it is available only to residents of the upper dales.)

Next meeting – date to be decided.

Postscript – the next meeting will be Wednesday July 12th at 4:30pm, both Gill and Dave will be available that day. It is proposed to hold the AGM on Thursday 7th September at 7pm.