

Leyburn Medical Practice PPG - Report of the committee 2022-23

Thanks for coming to this evening's AGM. In the old days, pre-Covid, we had standing room only at the PPG AGMs. The two since Covid haven't been well attended. The fact is that the knock-on effects of Covid are still with us and to some extent this has affected people's enthusiasm for getting involved or feeling they can make a difference.

The initial results of the 2023 GP Survey have been received which compares Leyburn Medical Practice favorably to national figures and the local Integrated Care System. We will look at these shortly. Under 50% of the surveys sent out were returned which is a shame as the practice DO take notice of criticisms and do what they can to deal with them.

The current committee is myself as Chair, David Bolam, Denise Houghton, Geoffrey Lineham, Judy Metcalfe, June Stancombe, Eva Stone and Nigel Watson. However June is tendering her resignation at this meeting and Lorraine Reed and Eileen Clarkson also left the committee during the year – huge thanks to all of them for their contributions over the years. If you want to join the committee in the future, please contact one of us or Alison Binks, the practice manager. We meet approximately every 2 months.

At every meeting during the last year we have had a talk by one of the staff at the practice. In 22/23 these have included Debra Smith, the Nurse Manager, telling us about her varied role at the practice since 2008; Dr Fox gave us an overview of a recent project at the surgery covering the long term medication of patients on opioids and gabapentinoids including gabapentin and pregabalin, and another to assist patients with learning difficulties in getting the best assistance for making appointments especially if use of technology is involved; Dr Fox spoke on another occasion about the initiative for pharmacy prescribing and explained the implications of proposed changes in GP funding. Gill Schofield, our first contact mental health practitioner,

explained the increase in her work since joining the practice last December. While Registrar Dr Jack Hobbs, who was just coming to the end of his 6 months at LMP, described the pathway he had taken to becoming a GP. Lucky us, he is going to reprise that talk tonight.

We all have views about the NHS in general and the practice in particular but it is very hard to get patients interested in taking an active role by joining the committee. We promoted the PPG during PPG Awareness Week in late May but though we handed out a large number of leaflets and they were also available to be picked up, we had none returned. So we're grateful to the practice for sending text messages to patients on our behalf telling them about this meeting. We have a full complement of doctors, registrars and other medical staff. We were sorry to lose Dr Brown but Dr Laybourne is now the senior partner with Dr Fox and Dr Shanmugam.

The practice is still under pressure. It has a large proportion of over 65s patients, many of whom have comorbidities. The NHS is 75 years old but it too is struggling with shortages of money and staff as well as the same problems of elderly patients who can end up bed blocking because social services haven't got the capacity in staff and money to send them home or, if necessary, move them into residential care. We need to avoid putting extra strain on the practice by being proactive about our own health, take advice using online consultation or through the pharmacy, and make use of other tools which were developed as a matter of necessity during covid. There are many more ways now to contact the medical practice and receive a quick response, or order prescriptions. The days when we would get an appointment with the doctor of our choice quickly and come out clutching a prescription have gone and that isn't necessarily a bad thing. If you need an urgent appointment, the practice will do its best to get you one that day but we have to do our bit too.

Stay well and thanks for listening.

Sue Medley (Chair)