PPG Introductory Newsletter- October 2021

Hi everyone,

This is an introductory newsletter to promote the newly formed Pinfold Medical Practice **Patient Participation Group** (PPG). The purpose of this newsletter is to say hello and let you know what the PPG is up and running and about to take its first tentative steps.

Firstly, a little background. After picking up one the PPG’s invitation leaflets, I contacted reception who put me in touch with the Practice Manager, Dee Chennenahalli to discuss becoming a member of the PPG. We had a meeting soon after and I was asked to preside as Chairperson of the Pinfold PPG for the next three years (with initial numbers being low a normal election procedure was unable to take place). The reason I and the other members have joined was to enable us to have some say in the following:

* How best to serve the local community regarding healthcare provision/services
* Understanding the reasons behind recent changes/protocols
* An opportunity to suggest/implement/assess necessary change(s) for all
* To help create a fair system in relation to our local demographic
* Be proactive rather than reactive during these unprecedented & challenging times
* To help improve/support local health via preventative health & health education
* And to liaise with: Practice staff & patients

Patient Reference Group (PRG) for Durham/Dales area

Carers

Voluntary Organisations & support groups

Equality & Human Rights Groups

The maximum number of sitting representatives allowed to form a PPG is 15, we currently have 3, which is wonderful, but we would like more. There is however no limit on the member numbers, so if you are interested in any of the above and are aged over 18, we would love to hear from you; particularly those who feel marginalised and therefore under-represented. Our aims and objectives are to form an accurate and balanced view of our surgery’s current or future needs reflecting the wider community. Meetings are to be held quarterly at the surgery.

If you are **under 18** and would like to have your say, then please remember we have a **suggestion box** placed in the foyer of the surgery for you to write down any concerns which you would like the PPG to discuss confidentially on your behalf - just mark it for the attention of the **PPG**.

The next newsletter will bring you all relevant news, specific focus points and updates relating to Pinfold Medical Practice following the PRG (Patient Reference Group) meeting in November and the first PPG meeting being held shortly after. **Please us with an email address if you want to start receiving newsletters.**

In the meantime, stay well, keep healthy and please be mindful that morale in the NHS is constantly being challenged during these very intense, stressful, and unprecedented times. A smile or any words of encouragement or appreciation should be much appreciated! As we welcome new faces, we also offer our thanks and appreciation to all retired staff and valued members of the ‘old’ team, especially those who felt like, and still feel like, members of our extended family.

Bernadette Hunt(Chairperson)

For the **PPG** at **Pinfold Medical Practice**