

Patient Participation Group - Watlington and Chalgrove GP Practice
Minutes for Online Teams Meeting held 13 September 2021 at 2 pm

Present; Carole Montague
Lynn Baker
Dave Lee
Doreen Hobbs
Anne Reed
Nicky Smallbone
Alison Franklin

Next Meeting; 1 November 2021 at 2 pm, on Teams
Chair and minutes to be agreed nearer the date

Business

1. Minutes

- Date of next meeting amended from 6 to 13 September.
- LB enquired if there were any celebration plans for Dr Gregory when he retires. CM advised that he wishes not to mark his retirement in any way.

2. Practice Update by CM

- NHS England has advised that the flu vaccination delivery scheduled for the end of September will be delayed by at least two weeks and only 48 hours' notice will be given that a delivery is being made.
- CM advised that this obviously makes planning very difficult. At the moment there will be likely two full weekdays, along with an evening and weekend session. As in previous years, a separate clinic will take place to undertake a nasal spray vaccination for qualifying 2- to 3-year-olds.
 - i) DL said he would email the Group to establish a list of volunteers ready to help with the flu sessions when they do eventually occur.
 - ii) CM also advised that the Pharmacy in Chalgrove is still expecting their delivery on 17 September.
 - iii) There is still no clarification with regard to booster covid vaccinations.
- The Practice will continue without any real changes to the arrangements that have been followed in recent months.
 - i) Telephone triage
 - ii) Limited numbers in waiting room (5 maximum).
 - iii) Face to face consultations when clinically necessary.
 - iv) Face coverings to be worn in the building.
 - v) Chalgrove is the "hot" room for any Covid case. Any Covid positive case will be seen at Chalgrove in a specific room by GP in suitable PPE. Chalgrove will stay open until 6 pm every weekday.
 - vi) Watlington shuts at 2 pm every weekday.

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vii) A text summarising the above was sent out recently to all patients for whom the Practice holds a mobile phone number (some 6000).

- AF expressed concern about recent experiences when phoning the Practice. She felt Receptionists were not offering any face-to-face options.
 - i) CM explained that all Receptionist receive basic medical training and work to scripts. The intention is to establish the best treatment option for any patient, e.g., doctor, nurse, pharmacist etc.
 - ii) As with the national situation, a huge increase in calls has been experienced in the last 18 months, typically 400 daily. It is extremely difficult to satisfy every caller but if a patient wants a face-to-face visit, they are available but with relatively long lead times unless there is a specific clinical need when a same day appointment will be offered if at all possible.
 - iii) It was felt an attempt should be made again to communicate the situation to patients.

3. SELF & PCN Reports

- The report compiled recently by NT and circulated to the PPG was reviewed.
 - i) CM advised that Social Prescribing was now proving to be extremely valuable and reducing the load on medical staff. There are 3 staff shared between the PCN, Sarah Rudd, Rachel Downey and Rachel Poole. Most of the patients they are helping are in the mature age group, but they can deal with anyone over 18 and anyone can refer a patient to them (with the patient's permission).
 - ii) It was felt their activities are not widely known and would be an interesting topic for an educational talk sometime in the future.

4. AOB

- DL advised Ian Jones has decided to step down from the PPG due to pressures of his work. The PPG thanks him for all his contributions.
- LB raised the issue of involvement with the PCN at board level as detailed in NT's report. It was felt it would be appropriate to await a response to the letter being sent to them.

| Action Points | |
|---------------|--|
| Who | Action |
| Carole | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advise PPG when any firm details received regarding Covid top up vaccination and/or flu programme.• Speak to Social Prescribing Team about feasibility of giving a presentation detailing their work in our area.• Advise eligibility for free flu vaccinations. (Done, see addendum). |
| DL | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email group asking for flu day volunteers. |

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Eligibility for Flu Vaccinations

The national influenza immunisation programme aims to provide direct protection to those who are at higher risk of influenza associated morbidity and mortality. Groups eligible for influenza vaccination are based on the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and include older people, pregnant women, and those with certain underlying medical conditions.

Since 2013, influenza vaccination has been offered to children in a phased roll-out to provide both individual protection to the children themselves and reduce transmission across all age groups to protect vulnerable members of the population.

The expanded influenza vaccination programme that we had last year will continue in 2021 to 2022 as part of our wider winter planning when we are likely to see both influenza and COVID-19 in circulation. This means that as a temporary measure the offer for 50 to 64 year olds will continue this year to protect this age group, as hospitalisation from COVID-19 also increases from the age of 50 years onwards.

As a temporary measure, the programme will also be extended this year to 4 additional cohorts in secondary school so that all those from years 7 to year 11 will be offered vaccination. Vaccinating children reduces transmission of influenza and [JCVI have recommended](#) that expanding into secondary schools would be cost-effective, particularly if COVID-19 is still circulating.

Therefore, those eligible for NHS influenza vaccination in 2021 to 2022 are:

- all children aged 2 to 15 (but not 16 years or older) on 31 August 2021
- those aged 6 months to under 50 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- those aged 50 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline health and social care staff employed by:
 - a registered residential care or nursing home
 - registered domiciliary care provider
 - a voluntary managed hospice provider
 - Direct Payment (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants.

All frontline health and social care workers are expected to have influenza vaccination to protect those they care for. A separate communication will follow about staff vaccination.