**Lambert Medical Centre**

Patient Participation Group

Tuesday 14th September 2021

Minutes - Sue Cann (SC)

1. Welcome and thanks to all for attending.
2. Building work is now complete with the waiting room refurbishment being the final piece of work. The additional clinical space which the project has provided will future proof the surgery and provide rooms for Allied Health professionals to work from.
3. Staffing updates – Dr Karthik Shanmugam joined the practice in April as a Partner and is currently working 7 sessions per week. He is a GP trainer and specialises in Diabetes.

We have a Registrar (qualified Dr doing GP training) with us for 6 months. Sebastian will be having his own clinics as per other GPs and will be supported and mentored by Dr Shanmugam

We also have Medical students currently with us at the practice.

Dr Smith explained the benefits of being of being a training practice is that Registrars/Students become familiar with the area and practice and hopefully will want to join us once qualified.

1. Blood Bottle Shortage – there is a global shortage of blood bottles affecting both Primary and Secondary care. Currently clinicians are advising which blood tests are safe to postpone and those that can't wait are still being carried out. We have no further information as to how long this is going to be an issue for.
2. Primary Care Networks – We continue to work with other surgeries in Hambleton, predominantly to provide the Covid vaccination campaign. We also share staff and have a Clinical Pharmacist and a First Contact Physiotherapist working from this surgery.
3. Following the announcement form the government today, we can confirm that we will be working with Hambleton Practices and delivering the Covid Booster and Flu campaign together at the old Grammar School in Northallerton. The guidance says that the vaccines can be given together and therefore co-administration will save multiple trips for people. It is looking likely that it will be Pfizer for Covid booster which can be given irrespective of first 2 doses. We will be contacting patients as per the guidance from the JCVI ie, the most vulnerable patients first. SC confirmed that patients who attended mass vaccination sites for their previous doses will be able to attend Northallerton this time.
4. Appointments – We had a discussion around telephone triaging and explained that this will continue as we need to keep unwell and vulnerable patients as safe as possible. We have been open throughout the pandemic and have seen patients face to face where appropriate and necessary. Some patients are still being seen in the car park to protect them and others. There was a query about being able to book a face-to-face appt and Dr Smith explained that patients need to speak to a GP first so they can be screened and then invited to the surgery at the most appropriate time and we can ensure the most appropriate person is here and able to see them.

We also offer online consultations so patients can send in their query at any time of day or night. This can be a non-urgent medical concern or and admin query. We explained that if a document needs to be attached to a consultation, this could be done as a photo.

We often ask patients to text in photos to help Drs when conducting telephone consultations and again, this can avoid an unnecessary trip to the surgery.

1. Parkrun – Nationally, Parkruns have recently re-started. We hope to support our local Parkrun again once they are happy to accept volunteer takeovers.