

**Minutes of Meeting
Gower Street Practice
Patient Participation Group
held on Thursday 16 June 2022
at 12.00 pm (online and face to face)**

Present:

Patient members: FL, EM, RN, RL, RP

Staff: Dr FB, Dr AD, MM, SP

1. **Apologies for absence:** NM
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** these were agreed.
3. **Matters arising:**
 - Improvement Grant bid: this has been submitted but there are delays in processing.
 - The blood pressure machine the waiting room is working well now.
 - The change of time of today's meeting was discussed: changes are avoided where possible but a vital meeting scheduled at 1.00 pm could not be altered on this occasion.
4. **Resignation of PPG Member:** a founder member of the PPG, SH, has left the Group. Her husband had expressed interest in joining but is now unable to do so. The meeting recorded thanks to SH for all her considerable input over the years. A thank-you card will be sent to her (MM to arrange). New recruitment efforts will be made, especially to represent the younger population of the practice, which has proved very difficult in the past. It was noted that such meetings are generally unappealing to students. FL suggested handing a note to all visiting students for a period of one month, inviting them to attend even if only once or twice. MM and SP to create this. Dr AD and Dr FB discussed the option of online input, perhaps using Survey Monkey.
5. **Resignation of Dr Kazmi:** Dr ZK has decided to move on and will be leaving in July.
6. **Recruitment of new GP and reception staff:** it continues to be extremely difficult to recruit new staff. For example, out of 40 reception candidates invited for interview, only 11 turned up and one was appointed. It has also been difficult to attract new GP applications, an issue reflected nationally. When the current trainee GP finishes, a new male trainee GP will start in August, for one year. The Physician Associates have been trained in cervical smear-taking, to free up Nurse Catrina for other duties. An additional pharmacist is being sought in addition to William, who might be able to take on a trainee next year. There were some comments regarding some of the current receptionists, which MM will look into. Dr FB welcomed all feedback, which can be by email or personal discussion with MM.
7. **Long Term Conditions clinics:** these are for conditions such as asthma, diabetes, kidney or heart disease, frailty etc, some patients having multiple conditions. Our Health Care Assistant, Melina, carries out the preliminary assessments on Fridays, taking blood where necessary, then books the follow-up appointments with William (pharmacist). Visits are being arranged to housebound patients. Clinics for asylum seekers were also discussed. A visit to their residential hotel was arranged to carry out the checks, which was very successful. The Social Prescriber, Denise, holds a coffee morning once a month to signpost patients who need help with food banks, debt advice, carers etc.
8. **Any other business:**

FL enquired about Covid and boosters: current Covid rates are monitored by hospital admissions not mortality. There will be another round of vaccinations in the autumn but no details are available yet.
9. **Dates of next meetings:** Thursday 13 October and Thursday 12 January at 1.00 pm.