

General discussion regarding the above, confidentiality an issue and the time it would take to administer.

General discussion about waiting times with varying experiences identified. The nurse practitioner was mentioned as being very experienced and seeing some of the acute cases to assist with the doctor's lists, which could also be brought to patient's attention.

RA brought up the subject of generic drugs and the reasons why these are changed from time to time either by the pharmacy or the doctors.

General discussion regarding the reasons for this ie, cost, availability etc.

GP mentioned the issue of funding in relation to NAPP.

AL stated that we are already members of NAPP and we can apply for funding or grants, as appropriate.

HM had brought information regarding community awards being advertised in the courier newspaper and that as a group we could apply for a pack and see what would be relevant to the practice.

BE agreed to contact the courier group for more information.

Other means of funding were discussed, the Lions Club, Round Table and the 'friends of the practice' fund was re-emphasised as a means of raising money within the practice.

GP brought up the subject of other practices and affiliation to their patient groups.

AP stated that Kingswood is an already well established group and more than happy for us to be affiliated with them for future events and possible fundraising events.

OA shared her experience as a patient with specific needs and how setting up an informal communications group outside of the medical profession would be positive and helpful to other sufferers, to empower patients to help themselves and seek first hand knowledge.

JJ mentioned Health Coaching. This is an organisation with highly qualified nurses that contact patients eg when discharged from hospital or to explain what certain drugs are used for and generally help patients to understand their condition, medication and prospects.

GP thought that the use of the notice board could emphasise this kind of service. The notice boards could be divided into categories such as The Practice, PPG and other NHS information with other additional services such as chiropractor, counselling etc as a separate notice board.

There followed a further discussion regarding helping patients with contact from other patients with similar experiences and what was practically feasible, emphasising action points for the future to implement matters. Important that the PPG notice board should inform patients of progress of PPG and what issues are being looked at.

OA drew attention to the vulnerable in the community such as elderly, housebound and isolated groups.

Both OA and HM had brought various information regarding existing PPG groups and gave to chairman.

Further discussion regarding the 'Buddy' system. The danger of psychological dependency, interpersonal element and boundaries, 'friendly voice' and the need to emphasise the optimistic elements.

Areas of future discussion identified:

Waiting times
Prescriptions
Noticeboard
Self-help groups
Funding

Actions

BE writing to courier
BE write PPG definition and to circulate for agreement before next meeting.
BE to look into various options for funds

Equipment for surgery

Dermatoscope – for examination of skin lesions
Hyfricator – powerful light for minor operations

Date of next meeting: 1st October 12.30 at the surgery

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