

# DRS WEBSTER & TWOMEY & LOWCOCK

## **PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

### Minutes of Meeting Held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at Rainford Health Centre

#### Present On Behalf of the Practice

Dr Jo Lowcock, GP

Mrs Helen Sansbury, Practice Manager  
Mrs Kathryn Williams, Asst. Practice Manager

#### Present Representing Patient Group

Mrs L Burns  
Mr A Gavin

Mrs L Conachey  
Mr J Rosbotham

Mrs S Corfe  
Mr W Singleton

Mr D Cowley  
Mrs D Walton

#### Apologies for Absence

Mrs B Jones  
Mr B Marten

Mr K Gratton  
Mrs J Marten

Mrs S Kimberley  
Mrs J Shaw

Mr K Marshall

#### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

#### **Matters Arising and Action from Previous Minutes**

Notice Board with photographs and a re-organisation/up-dating of the notice boards in the waiting is still work in progress.

#### **The Princess Royal Trust – St. Helens Carers Centre**

We welcomed Mr Peter Sinnott – GP Carer Link Office from St. Helens Carers Centre, who had agreed to provide us with some information about the St. Helens Carers Centre and the services they can provide.

*A carer is someone who looks after and supports a friend, relative or neighbour who could not manage without their help. This could be due to age, physical or mental illness or disability. It does not mean a professional care-worker or personal assistant who gets paid for their work.*

*If you are a carer, you are not alone. Three in five people in the UK will become carers at some point in their lives*

Peter outlined what the Centre can provide for Carers. They provide valuable support for Carers in our community and are based at 31-35 Baldwin Street in St. Helens. Amongst other things they can provide benefits advice and help carer breaks payments, carer training session amongst a host of other services. All services are provided free of charge.

The group found this very interesting and would pass information on to others if appropriate.

Patients can register as a carer at the Practice or call into the Centre in St. Helens for help and advice.

We also have a link on our website to the Carers Centre please visit [www.rainfordhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.rainfordhealthcentre.co.uk) click on "Advice and Support" and then click on "Are You A Carer".

### **Health Improvement Team**

Kerry Grimes also attended the meeting to talk to us about the work of the Health Improvement Team. The Health Improvement Team offers a range of local and tailored services to help improve the health and wellbeing of those living in Halton and St Helens. They are particularly promoting early detection and recognising the symptoms of Bowel, Breast and Lung cancer. They provide a wealth of information and we have now got a link to the team and the services they provide via our website above. But you can also find them at [www.healthimprovementteam.co.uk](http://www.healthimprovementteam.co.uk) or you can e-mail them at [health.improvement@nhs.net](mailto:health.improvement@nhs.net) or telephone them on 0300 300 0103 if you want further information.

### **Clinical Commissioning Up-Date**

As part of the development of St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) they invited representatives from our Patient Participation Group (PPG) and representatives also from other Practices to take part in a special event which took place on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012, between 10am and 2.30pm at the World Of Glass, St Helens**

The aim of the event was to enable patient representatives to find out more about the developments within the health service and for the CCG to see things from a patients' perspective which will help to shape the future priorities in St Helens.

Several of our members attended the meeting and we are grateful for their interest and subsequent feed back. The CCG priorities are:

- Improved early detection and management of long term conditions
- Sustainable local health economy
- Reduce childhood obesity and alcohol related admissions
- Increased access to education for patients, the public and professionals
- Reform of urgent care
- Reform of mental illness care
- A holistic approach to care closer to home

- To develop the CCG Team and individuals

Patient participation would play an important role in meeting these objectives and in the future of health service commissioning.

**Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm at Rainford Health Centre