

**Bridges Medical Practice**

**Trinity Square Health Centre**

**24 West Street**

**Gateshead, NE8 1AD**

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**PPG MEETING 26.1.2022**

# Present: Apologies

PPG Member 1 PPG Member 5

Paul Evans PPG Member 6

Joanne Palmer

PPG Member 2

PPG Member 3

PPG Member 4

# Welcome and Introductions

New member PPG Member was welcomed to the PPG during Introductions.

# Matters arising from previous meeting

1. Recruitment of new PPG members – TV monitors in reception and student packs are now used to communicate the PPG.
2. Blood bottle shortages have now been resolved.

# Surgery performance status

There are currently three GP’s working from home that have tested positive for COVID with mild symptoms.

Current appointments

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Day | GP’s (fte/day) | Nurse/Nurse Practitioners (fte/day) | HCA (fte/day) | Other Services available |
| Monday | 2.5 | 2.5 | 0.5 |  |
| Tuesday | 3 | 1 | 1 | Student Drop in |
| Wednesday | 3 | 2 | 1 |  |
| Thursday | 3 | 1 | 1 | Pharmacist |
| Friday | 4 | 1 | 0 | Smoking Cessation |

Core services remain the same.

Dr Sutton has joined the surgery last week on a two month trial basis working one day per week.

Caitlyn Baker has joined the administrative team at working two days per week whilst serving notice on previous job. Caitlyn will be working five days per week by the end of January.

Approx. 30-40% of appointments are available same day, remaining routine appointments are running at 10 days (6 working days).

Approx. 30/40% of appointments are face to face, the rest are generally follow up appointments which tend to be via phone.

Sick Self-certification extended period ends 26th January – It is thought this would not cause the surgery too big a problem.

The surgery prescription telephone line was now connected to an answering machine. The system requires the patients name, DOB and medications requested. This new process is being trialled and will streamline the administration and give patients quicker access.

**Data from the trial will be discussed at the next PPG meeting.**

**It was agreed that the on-line prescription service via Patient Access or the NHS App was worth promoting on the TV Screens in reception and via the telephone message on the prescription answering machine.**

# COVID Vaccinations

Take up of COVID Vaccines at Bridges Medical Practice had been poor. It was suggested this was due to delays in the vaccines being made available and the proximity to Christmas. 644 vaccines had been administered in the past month with a capacity of 2-3k. Half of those vaccinated were registered with Bridges. Vaccines were also administered to homeless/migrants/individuals without ID.

The Vaccines will expire in the next 1-2 weeks and no further Covid vaccinations will be made available through Bridges in accordance with Government restrictions on delivery. The CBC GP Federation in Gateshead will support future vaccinations with some staffing support from Bridges.

# List Size Growth

There are currently 6117 patients registered with the surgery. The database had been cleansed with patients being removed who had not had contact with the surgery and could not be contacted on the phone numbers and email addresses supplied. These patients are thought to have been overseas students who have returned to their home countries.

This number of registered patients continues to grow with the planned house building programme in Gateshead.

# Estate

The CCG has approved a request for the former X-ray rooms in Trinity Square Health Centre to be converted into assessment rooms for Bridges, and the CCG will help to cover costs for the conversion.

Bridges are now awaiting NHS Property Services to agree terms of lease and charges payable.

The proposal is to create 5 additional assessment/consultation rooms which will be used to increase capacity and include:- GP Registrar, F2 Junior Doctors, an additional 1 FTE GP, 3 further FTE’s (Nurse practitioners and HCA’s), Clinical Services, GP Training and Physiotherapy.

**These plans are fully supported by the PPG**

# Movement from CCG to ICS

The CCG was due to end on 31 March but has been postponed as the ICS is not yet in a position to take over. The current expected date is 30 June 2022, but this date may be subject to further change.

# Flu Vaccination and Nasal Flu uptake

Approximately one quarter of the Bridges patient population have received the flu vaccination through Bridges.

There were 76 2-3 year olds eligible for the nasal flu, 41 nasal flu's have been given so far and 2 children had the flu vac, as couldn’t have the nasal due to it containing hydrolysed gelatine derived from pork.

These figures are an improvement from last year.

# Face Masks

A decision has been made to maintain the obligatory wearing of masks in the surgery until further notice, except where medically exempt. The PPG fully support this decision. It’s hoped that other services within the building would support this policy and requested that feedback be given to services that do not maintain this policy around face coverings.

**AOB**

**PPG Member will contact PPG members by email to discuss celebrating the charitable work of Bridges.**

# Next meeting – week commencing 25th April 2022

Aim to meet in the practice but will revert to virtual if needs be.