

Summary of Minutes of Meeting
UPPINGHAM PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP
held on 4th July 2017 at 5.30 pm

Trish Crowson, Senior Public Health Manager working with Rutland County Council, was welcomed to talk about health and wellbeing in Rutland and the commissioning of appropriate services.

Overall health is good in Rutland, and the annual profile of health puts Rutland similar to or better than other areas of England. When looking at what promotes good health evidence shows that being in good health comes in particular from being in good employment, having good quality housing, having a good level of education and experiencing good social and community networks. Generally people in Rutland have an above average level of income, housing and education. Employers are encouraged to alter the pattern of how people work, and many schemes are in place to promote people being physically active and socially engaged.

Public health provision has moved from NHS to local authorities. Rutland Community Wellness Service* has recently been commissioned to help people help themselves and to bring existing advice and support services together. **Rutland Information Service*** has been revamped and goes live in August. Other health groups and organisations are actively extending the range of ways people can access their services. Voluntary Action Rutland remains an independent organisation, now funded only for transport. **Rutland County Council commissions from whoever is most appropriate** to cover a whole spectrum of health and wellbeing needs and Trish was extremely positive about the work being done and the services available.

Clare Jackson and Vicki Abbott are now Duty Practice Managers on alternate weeks and share the Manager role, Clare dealing with the accounts and business side and Vicki the day-to-day running. Other newly recruited staff are in place.

However the recruitment of GPs is difficult and this is clearly a national problem. One GP has already left the Practice and has not been replaced; another is reducing the number of hours worked. This means that, from September, there will be less GP time available to patients. The Practice is very aware of the need to retain present GPs. Nor do they want to lose the good outcomes of a successful Practice and the service offered, for example same-day appointments and “named” GPs. Consequently they are considering ways to use staff differently by taking on more Advanced Nurse Practitioners, a Physiotherapist to run an advisory clinic and a full time Pharmacist who would deal with the management and reviewing of prescriptions. This would allow the GPs to focus on more complex needs while still seeing patients.

Members supported the changes in organisation to ensure best service to patients does continue, and will circulate further information once it becomes available as they cover most local areas. They did feel that the use of **Oakham as the local Urgent Care Centre** should be promoted.

In future, as well as relying on local representatives to gather information from patients, a PPG **Suggestion Box** should be placed in Surgeries. A new “Terms of Reference” giving **information about the PPG** will be placed on Surgery noticeboards.

There was no news from **Branches**. Training Days are organised on a rota and cannot be changed to avoid Branch closures. Healthwatch had offered to come to Barrowden and talk in order to get more feedback and response on local service but the attendance on the evening was disappointing.

Date of next meeting is Tuesday, 26th September at 5.30 pm.

***Rutland Community Wellness Service - rutlandrap.org.uk - 01572 725805**

***Rutland Information Service - risrutland.gov.org - 01572 722577 ex 8495**

For ways to be active - activerutland.org.uk - 01572 720936