

Minutes of the meeting of Bruton Surgery Patient Participation Group held at Bruton Community Hall at 11am on 7 June 2024

1. Introductions. Jane Hobbs and Dr Susie Stoneley were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Apologies from Virginia, Fran and Faith.

3. Previous Minutes were approved. There were no actions arising.

4. Minutes of Symphony PPG Leads meeting were discussed. David said that the majority of the PPG Leads on the call had expressed concerns about moving from Ask my GP to Anima although the minutes do not appear to reflect that. It was not clear if Bruton Surgery would have to move to Anima if the trial was successful. There was discussion on how Symphony was funded. Jane outlined how she believed it worked which was consistent with what Ryan Rolley and Bryony Finch of Symphony had said on the call. Hopefully more will be forthcoming when Philip Ayton the Symphony Finance Director gives his presentation on the subject. Jane remarked that Bruton Surgery would have closed had Symphony not taken it over as the then partners were not comfortable with the ongoing liabilities.

5. Mental Health. Hugh outlined his two points which are firstly is the scale of the problem as great as the papers are suggesting, particularly for younger people? How do people in the community seek solutions for mental health issues and are they aware of how to do so? Secondly, there is clinical evidence that suggests in the region of 40% of patients prescribed anti-depressants experience low efficacy and in some cases experience ADR's. (Citalopram is a good example associated with the latter.) How is the prescription regime managed to safeguard the patient?

Dr Stoneley responded by saying that approximately 30% of the workload in the practice had a mental health aspect. She also said that Covid had had a negative impact on mental health particularly amongst young people. She also believed that the drugs prescribed for depression probably only had a 20-30% efficacy rate and in many cases such drugs were probably being overprescribed. If someone comes into the surgery for a mental health problem there is a follow up within 2 weeks. Prescriptions are typically 28 or 56 days so this allows for additional follow up.

Hugh mentioned a test called PGx which studies how your genes may affect your body's response to and interaction with some prescription or over the

counter medications. This can assist the clinician in determining which is the appropriate medication for the patient. It is used extensively in the Netherlands and Canada. It is not currently available on the NHS but can be done privately for around £200.

6. Practice Update. Jane said that she would email her 'Practice Update' paper to members after the meeting . She highlighted the following:-

(a) Ask my GP is well used by patients.

(b) QOF was excellent achieving 98.14% and finishing second out of all the Symphony practices.

(c) Dr Lacey is leaving on 30 June 2024 but a new GP is starting on 1 September 2024. Dr Bone who has been a locum in the past will be available on Fridays. So from a GP perspective things are looking more positive but less so on the nursing side and the current medical secretary is leaving shortly. Reception continues to be a challenge.

6.AOB. There was none.

7. Next Meeting. 11am on 20 September 2024 at the Bruton Community Hall.