

## PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

Date: 15 January 2019

**Present:** Biddy Barrington, Alan Butler, Jan Beckett, Teresa Cole, Charles Cullen, Richard Dilley, Sue Roberts (Chair), Tracy Phillips and Emily Ross.

**Apologies:** Carole Hitchings

**Attended:** Alan Ball (Octagon)

### Minutes of last meeting 20 November 2018

These were approved subject to Frank Cole being shown as an observer and the deletion of the ( ) brackets relating to the Secretary.

### Matters Arising: None

### Meetings for 2019

The list was circulated, it being noted that the 19 February and 19 March meetings were to be addressed and organised by Octagon and were to be arranged in Pathfinder House.

### Address by Alan Ball of Octagon.

Arising from the partners decision to join with the Octagon organisation he had been invited to address the PPG members and answer questions. He was invited to do so and there followed a full and frank discussion.

He advised that Octagon had been established in July 2018 and had been approved by NHS England. There had been only 5 practises initially but the organisation had grown considerably since that time.

The organisation was owned by the GPs themselves and as practices joined if the premises were leased that lease was taken over by Octagon but if, as was the case with Priory Fields, the buildings were owned by the partners then that situation would be unchanged.

On a change-over all the staff would move in accordance with TUPE and there would be no redundancies. They would retain their existing terms and conditions. In other words the practice would continue as now.

The clinical merger would take effect from April of this year.

The organisation was managed by a Board who delegated some responsibilities and functions.

Many detailed questions were asked but the main points were that savings would come about due to the economies of scale. For example on insurance costs and cleaning services.

AB indicated that already improvements had been made in clinical services and the organisation had a budget for staff improvement and training.

It would be possible for patients from Priory Fields to go to other clinics for any treatment, if they wished but they would not be pressured to do so.

It was envisaged that staff may wish to apply for promotional or other posts over time and it was envisaged many changes and promotions would be internal.

In response to a question AB indicated that once a decision to join was taken there was no going back.

The pharmacy remained with the practice as now.

In regard to the PPG, each practice had their own PPG but there was or would be one covering the whole of Octagon. Mr Ball said that 1 delegate from each PPG would be invited to attend these and it was recommended that an

individual be chosen with a substitute should that person be unavailable. Expenses would be paid for the attendance at meetings. They would take place at different practices throughout the year.

There were to be open meetings for Priory Field patients at which Octagon Board members would be present to explain what was happening and to re-assure patients.

PPG members were assured that the present arrangements in record to medical records were unchanged and the computer records were compatible. Existing arrangements for making or cancelling appointments would be unchanged, as would those for ordering prescriptions.

Mr Ball mentioned discussions were also taking place with other practices in the Huntingdon and other areas. Their website showing the situation in this regard was now out of date.

After a detailed discussion Mr Ball left the meeting. There was then some discussion of the situation and it was clear members were re-assured by what Mr Ball had stated. It was noted however that the decision to join Octagon was one taken by the partners alone.

#### AOB

There being no further business the meeting was closed.