

Ambrose Avenue PPG

Minutes of March 14, 2022, meeting

1 Present: Roly Buss (chair), Ray Hardisty (secretary), Kevin Starling, Val White, Trevor Ireland, Rose Skingsley, Keith Brooks, Carrie Ransom , Carol and Robert Brand, Helen Moucher, Dr Annie Soares.

2 Apologies: Marilyn Rivett, Mary Russell and Pam Robertson

3 Welcome. Dr Soares was welcomed to the meeting

4 Minutes: Minutes of the November 8, 2021, PPG were accepted as a true record

5 New member: Louise Ismail had emailed to apologise to the group but she now wanted to join the support group and not the active one.

6 Matters arising not on agenda: None

7 Secretary's report on activity since November.

Ray again apologised for the vaccination project involvement which had been so time consuming since November and kept him out of all other action including his other commitments to the U3A and Health Forum.

He had monitored emails from afar but no big issues had arisen.

He outlined the possibility of the PPG meeting face to face at Tollgate which would mean, wearing masks sitting in the patient waiting area on a Tuesday to Friday evening.

Members agreed to stay on Zoom.

8 Letter to GP partners: Ray reported delivering the letter, addressed to Dr Soares and the other partners, on November 18.

However, Dr Soares reported she had never received it and a search of the mail system had not recovered it.

Ray had subsequently delivered copies in person to Ambrose, the week before the meeting.

Dr Soares said she understood the sentiments and would reply once the partners had discussed the correspondence.

9: Message from Dr Soares:

Dr Soares outlined what she called 'the pressure of the pandemic' on GPs which she said had stopped them doing what they wanted to do.

She explained how the Rev Wendy Pagden had been taken on as the practice chaplain to help her, the other partners and clinical support staff.

And asked the PPG to consider doing more to support the practice and its team.

10 Practice Report:

Staff

- We have recruited an Operations Manager, Jennie, who will be starting with us in April, and has many years' experience in the Health Care sector and in managerial roles.
- We have a salaried GP starting with in April, Dr Nicola Stewart working two days per week
- We have a new Healthcare Assistant – Erin Witney
- We have a new Prescription Clerk/Phlebotomist – Leah Lawson
- We have live adverts for 2 x GP and 2 x Receptionists
- We have an apprentice who is placed in our Admin department

Vaccines

Covid Vaccine:

- We have vaccinated 81.3% of our eligible patients with the first dose, and 76.8% with the second dose
- 10,077 patients within cohorts 1-14 have received their booster vaccination
- We have vaccinated 156 housebound patients with the booster vaccine, with four patients remaining
- We have vaccinated 123 care home residents with the booster vaccine, with only eight residents remaining

Flu:

- 7,726 of our eligible patients have been given the flu vaccine, and we have 2,149 patients remaining to vaccinate.
- Within this we have vaccinated 145 housebound patients with only 7 more patients to vaccinate.

Other

We have a Walk in covid vaccine clinic available every Wednesday morning at our Tollgate surgery

Our prescription phone line times have been changed. They are now available between 9.30am – 12.30pm .

Dr Babatunde Soetan became a GP partner on December 1, 2021

10 Practice Activity: Members discussed the report but due to the length of meeting the proposed discussion about heading amendments was held over.

11 Facebook update

Kevin submitted the report on Facebook activity.

He said membership had risen by 17 to 731.

He also suggested an item about the needs of GPs should feature on the Facebook page.

12 PPG membership: Ray reported no change at 380 . Active (14), Reserve (15) and Supporter 351

13 Newsletter:

Agreed that the March newsletter should update everyone about staff changes, changes to the prescription team access time change and the walk-in covid clinic.

14 North East Essex Health Forum

Ray updated members

15 Any Other Business

None

16 Outcomes

- a) Opportunity to hear from Dr Soares
- b) The fact the PPG had met again
- c) Appointment of a new partner GP.

17 Next meeting

Monday, April 11, again on Zoom at 6pm The new chaplain will be invited and Tara Jones the new GP Care Co-ordinator.