

Kelsall PPG Meeting

Thursday 18 March 2021

held by conference call

Minutes

Present : Caroline Stein (Chair), Alan Bottomley (Vice Chair), Michele Elvin (Secretary), Dr Claire Baker, Jen Bottomley, Arthur Wycherley, Nick Kuszniir, Fiona Smith, Alan and Ann Parsons, Rena Gardner, Davina Crawford-Young, Lindsay Burgess (Healthbox – joined part of meeting only)

Apologies Julie Johnson , Monica Haworth

None

Matters Arising from the Minutes

None not covered on the agenda

Chair's report

Caroline reported that the Covid vaccination programme continues to be a great success for the Rural Alliance.

The new Medical Centre and Hub building is progressing very quickly. Trustees are planning another site visit in March to get a better idea about the actual space and how we plan to equip it. Caroline thanked Alan and Jen for the up-to-date photos members received this afternoon of the progress on site. Caroline reported there have been some changes to the design of the Hub. She confirmed there is definitely to be under floor heating and bi-fold doors to allow more use of the outdoor space.

Caroline reported that the charity has just appointed four additional Trustees and this considerably broadens the skill base of the Board. In addition, there has been a great response from volunteers wanting to help in the Hub and four Teams have been created as the project moves forward into the operational stage. The Teams will cover procurement, designing the schedule of activities, communication/media and fundraising.

Over the past year issues such as social isolation, bereavement, mental health and general wellbeing have become even more important. The doctors have expressed their concerns over the increased numbers of patients they are seeing and that the necessity for social prescribing has become even more vital in helping some patients. The PPG charity has been working over the past few months with Healthbox to create a collaboration which will result in the Hub becoming a special space to address some of these problems.

Healthbox is a non-profit Community Interest Company based in Cheshire that exists with the aim to provide health and wellbeing services to all aspects of the community. Their knowledge and experience will be invaluable and the trustees are very excited about this partnership.

Caroline reminded us that the meeting was being held on National Social prescribing day and welcomed to the meeting Lindsay Burgess who works for Healthbox and is Kelsall's social prescribing link worker.

Update from our Social Prescribing Link Worker - Rural Alliance

Lindsay joined the Rural Alliance in December from a background in the corporate sector in wellbeing and running craft workshops. She is one of two link workers covering village surgeries in the Rural Alliance area. Her colleague is Claire Lockerbie. Lindsay explained the role of link workers. Referrals are from GPs and there are different organisations and individuals responsible for different groups of people. Willow is our coordinator for people aged over 18 with one or more health conditions and Julie at Brightlife provides a service for the over 50s, with a focus on social isolation issues. The Alliance is now recruiting two further social prescribers specialising in people with mental health issues. Lindsay reported that currently there is a high demand for bereavement support and generally signposting people is challenging because of lockdown as some services are unavailable or in high demand. Lindsay currently has 19 cases and she works with these people to see them through a programme of counselling support.

Lindsay's background in art and design means she is keen to incorporate art within the support programme. She confirmed she was keen to work with the doctors and the PPG to provide art within the building. She suggested a mural, outside sculpture and a gallery wall with framed pictures or craft showcase as opportunities to explore further.

Alan thanked Lindsay for being on Board with the Wellbeing Hub delivery teams.

Update on the Medical Centre

Claire said that there wasn't anything further to say about the updates to the surgery that hasn't already been covered.

Covid vaccine update

Claire reported that the surgery would like to bring more people into the surgery but only once staff have had both vaccinations. The doctors at Kelsall wanted to continue giving the vaccines at Cheshire View as the vaccination programme widens out into the next stages but other GPs and PSNs have decided that it is not possible to sustain an increased level of commitment. Claire reported that as the age range for the vaccine drops it gets more difficult to get people to come in. The surgery is contacting those who turn down the vaccine. Cheshire View will concentrate on doing second vaccines for the older cohorts. The NHS now expect GP surgeries to return to normal in terms of non-Covid activities.

Care Community Update

Claire thanked the members of the PPG who attended the Care Community Engagement session in the morning. Claire is the clinical lead and a steering group will have its first meeting within the next few weeks. This will become a regular item on our agenda.

PPG Communication to our database

The Chairs of the PPG within the Rural Alliance have been discussing the issues all PPGs have with communication with the practice patients and the wider community both digitally and non-digitally. The Chairs had a meeting with Charlotte Fisher who works for ICP and her role is to support our PCN with communication. She is going to try to help the Rural Alliance. The first step is to look at the

medical practice's web sites, social media platforms and newsletters. Charlotte has asked PPGs to fill in a questionnaire. Caroline said she would be most grateful if the committee could complete the questionnaire and return them to her by the end of next week. She will then collate our thoughts and send them to Charlotte. The other RA PPG will be doing the same exercise. Caroline suggested we could widen our net of responses slightly by sending the questionnaire to some of the Kelsall PPG database as well. Caroline thanked Alan and Jen for all they do on information sharing and contact with our database. Alan noted that the biggest challenge is communicating with people who don't use IT.

Action: Caroline to circulate questionnaire to everyone after the meeting. Caroline to work with Alan and Jen to identify some additional people from the PPG database to answer the questionnaire. All to complete and return to Caroline by **Friday 26 March**.

Wellbeing Hub – Marketing & Management

Alan reported that there are now 4 new trustees and 28 people involved in the four teams. The initial meeting with all 4 teams went well, despite IT connection challenges. Alan thanked Michele for the powerpoint. Alan reported there are a further 40 volunteers waiting to help one the Hub is open. He noted that there is a pupil at Tarporley High who lives in Kelsall who remains keen to support people on IT.

Fundraising

Jen reported that there are 157 bond conversions so far. This translated into £15,765 (£65 of this in part Bonds) and gift aid of £3,291.25, giving a total so far of £19,056.

Jen reported that some people are very isolated. Contact anxiety could be the next challenge for social prescribing.

It was reported that an article on the Wellbeing Hub has gone to KADRAS and that would be published in the next edition out at end March.

Jen also reported that an initial email had gone to all the members of the Fundraising Committee to set up an initial meeting to think through what can be achieved given current and likely future Covid restrictions. Jen reported that everyone on the Committee is keen to get going again.

It was noted that the Duke of Edinburgh awards is a way of getting younger people involved.

Any Other Business

None

Date of next meetings

Next Meeting : on **13 May at 5.30 p.m.** via Microsoft Teams. Any apologies to the Secretary, Michele Elvin. Date of the **following meeting** is **Thursday 22 July**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 18.28.