

Greenfield Medical Centre

Virtual Patient Group meeting 8th September 2021.

Thank you to the 7 patients who attended. Apologies were received from 3 patients.

Notes from the meeting

- **Greenfield staff in attendance** – Jacqui Tonge (JT) Managing Partner. Michelle Tunstall (MT) assistant to JT. Dr Saloni Kapoor – currently locum GP. Dr Kapoor was previously at registrar at the practice and will be re-joining permanently in November.
- **Influenza update** – JT explained that the practice had originally planned to start flu vaccination at the beginning of the week; however the practice was informed that the delivery would be delayed and the clinics were cancelled. But on the scheduled date the flu's arrived and a major operation went into full swing to get the clinics up and running this week which has been achieved. Flus will be rolled out to enable everyone over 50 to have.
- We are currently only vaccinating the over 65's, children between 2&3 who are given the nasal flu spray and will start on the under 65s as and when those flus are delivered.
- **COVID BOOSTER** – The situation on the 8th was that patients who were high risk /immunosuppressed would be the first group to get the vaccines. Since this meeting the criteria is currently that patients over 50 and front line health workers who are post 6months since their 2nd vaccine are being called. We are waiting for secondary care to confirm the at risk patient groups... A question was asked about take up of vaccine generally in the Childs Hill area- JT responded that the take up had been very good but had slowed down a little with the 20 -45 age group more reluctant to have the vaccine. Locally there is a push for patients to avail themselves of the vaccine and various local pop up sites had and are available offering more access and flexibility to get vaccinated. Another question asked was how the delivery of the vaccination programme would impact on the ability of the practice to continue with its every day work – JT explained that all 8 practices within the PCN (primary care network) share the load and most of the clinics will be at weekends thus reducing the onus on practices. Should the practice deliver the vaccine it will only be one session a week with the support of the other practices. COVID & FLU can be administered at the same time.
- **Virtual Group consultations** – Dr Kapoor gave an overview of the benefit of engaging with these types of consultations and how the previous ones for Hypertension/ Gestational Diabetes and Long Covid had been very well received but relatively poorly attended on the

day. Dr Kapoor asked the group for ideas on promoting VGC and also for suggestions on useful subjects. Some ideas were more educational sessions. I.e. breast examination. For VGC diabetes, stress and COPD were suggested.

- **PCN – Primary Care Network** –

- the network has engaged a dietician and practices will be able to refer in from next subject to specific criteria.
- Blood tests at the current time due to a shortage of blood bottles nationwide- only urgent blood tests are being undertaken. The time frame for the reduction in service is expected to be approx. 2 weeks.
- BP monitoring a local pilot will be starting soon for patients with a diagnosis of hypertension and no access to home BP monitoring to be able to have a loan machine at home.
- **Latest Data on appointments**- The practice continues to increase its face to face appointments and adopt a hybrid model of face to face telephone and on line consultations. In the last month we have offered 400 face to face, and expect this will increase over the winter months.

JT thanked the group for their support and acknowledged that it is an incredibly difficult time at the moment and the practice staff are subject to daily verbal abuse. However JT stated that this minority of patients and the vast majority like the group are very supportive.

Next meeting TBA but will be late November /December,