

DR HARBIDGE & PARTNERS KIDSGROVE

Patients Participation Group Newsletter



Patients
Participation
Group



Issue 8

December 2017

If you would like to join the Patient Participation Group, please contact the surgery or email the address below:-

PPG Email :
ppgkidsgrove@gmail.com

Next PPG Meeting

Wednesday 14th February 2018
6.00pm - 7.30pm at Kidsgrove Fire

Contacts

Dr Harbidge & Partners,
Kidsgrove Medical Centre
Mount Road , Kidsgrove,
Staffordshire ST7 4AY



PPG News

Loneliness & Social Isolation - Update



**CONTACT
THE ELDERLY**

Hannah John, National Development Officer for the "Contact the Elderly" charity, gave a presentation at the November PPG meeting.

Hannah explained that the charity helped to set up and run tea parties for the isolated elderly in the community. Recently they have started to work with GP's and PPG's to expand their network of parties.

Volunteer drivers or taxis will collect each elderly person and take them to the event where they will have an opportunity to make new friends with the volunteers and other guests.

The events prove to be a real lifeline for the elderly. They can bring people of all ages together to start friendships.

The PPG members were impressed with the scheme and the support offered by the charity.

Steph Cartledge (Practice Matron) has since spoken to Dr. Harbidge



Nurse Practitioner , Dominique, recently joined the surgery and will be offering same day appointments for a variety of health problems.



who has confirmed that the practice would like to work with the PPG to introduce Tea Parties for the lonely and isolated of Kidsgrove in 2018.

If you would like to help with the Contact the Elderly Tea Parties please email the PPG at

ppgkidsgrove@gmail.com

Looking after your health

The National Association of Patients Participation Groups (NAPP) have highlighted the following in their December Newsletter :-

New rules on blood donations: more people will be able to give blood. Changes to the rules on blood donation in England, were announced in July, on the recommendation of the advisory committee on the safety of blood, tissues and organs (SaBTO), following a scientific review. These came into force on 28th November. The new rules will allow more people to donate blood, without affecting the safety of the blood supply.

Blood Donations Bowel Cancer

Over 60s: Don't miss out on bowel screening. Embarrassment about providing a stool sample is putting thousands at risk of dying from bowel cancer, according to Public Health England. All men and women over 60 should be tested, PHE says, but as many as 40% are ignoring the advice. Although more people than ever are being screened, take up of bowel cancer screening lags behind breast and cervical cancer screening services, which are used by around three-quarters of women.

Ear Wax

In recent years, patients have expressed concern about general practices no longer removing earwax. New draft guidance has been issued by NICE, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, that GP surgeries or community clinics should offer to remove earwax if a build-up is contributing to someone's hearing loss. . . Patients should be given ear drops to soften the wax which can be removed using an electronic machine that pumps water into the ear at a controlled pressure, known as ear irrigation. This means patients do not need to be referred to a specialist ear, nose and throat (ENT) service for the procedure.

Appointments missed each month?

Number of patients who did not attend

Missed Appointments	Doctors	Nurses	Total
November 2017*	26	63	89
October 2017*	29	65	94
September 2017	43	44	77
August 2017	30	37	67
July 2017	31	36	67
June 2017	24	35	59
May 2017	49	32	81
April 2017	35	36	71
March 2017	34	41	75

* The increase in the number of patients not attending their appointments in October / November 2017 is largely due to the inclusion of appointments for flu/nasal vaccines which boost the overall number of appointments.

Prescription Curbs: 18 medicines no longer funded by NHS

In September & October 464 PPG's and their members participated in an NHS consultation by completing an online survey on proposals to reduce prescribing of some low value items.

NHS England has now published national guidance on 18 medicines including fish oils, herbal remedies or homeopathy which should no longer be routinely prescribed on the NHS primary care. It aims to ensure people receive the safest and most effective treatment available, and save the NHS more than £141 million a year.

There will be further consultations on curbs to prescriptions for other over the counter products such as paracetamol.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.