



**DIDCOT HEALTH CENTRE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP
NEWSLETTER SPRING/SUMMER 2019**

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Over the last few months we have been working with other PPGs in Oxfordshire to get the 'patient voice' heard in discussions about healthcare developments, both locally and county-wide. Lesley Powell and I represent this PPG on the South West Oxfordshire Locality Forum (SWOLF), which I also chair. Some of the areas in which we have been involved are the shortage of GP and surgery capacity in Didcot, and the development of Primary Care Networks.

We currently have vacancies on the PPG Committee, as we have lost Marion Judd, who has recently relocated to London. We welcome enquiries from anyone interested in playing an active role in the PPG. We are, as ever, extremely grateful for the support that we

receive from Dr Jackie Mercer (Practice Manager) and Gill Suter (Assistant PM).

This year's AGM takes place on 26th June, and we hope to see as many of you as possible, to hear Dr Stainthorp bring us up to date on new developments.



Shelagh Garvey, Chair of PPG Committee

PROPOSED SURGERY AT GREAT WESTERN PARK

OCCG submitted a planning application last year to the Vale of White Horse District Council, for a new Practice at Great Western Park. Although this is a welcome development, and will ease pressure on the existing Practices, there were a number of objections, from various sources. The Vale of

White Horse have now asked for revised plans to be submitted.



DIDCOT HEALTH CENTRE PPG AGM

26th JUNE AT 7.30 PM, IN DIDCOT HEALTH CENTRE.

**COME AND HEAR DR DAVID STAINTHORP SPEAK ON FUTURE
CHANGES AT THE HEALTH CENTRE, AND HEAR WHAT'S HAPPENING
TO HEALTHCARE IN OUR AREA**

PATIENT SURVEY

A big thank you to all those patients who completed the last patient survey, either online or using the paper version at the surgery.

The results are very encouraging, especially in terms of patients' understanding of the services available and their willingness to be seen by a range of healthcare professionals, especially where this is more appropriate than seeing a GP. The results have now been passed to the GPs for their comments.

The PPG Committee would like to encourage more patients to respond to such surveys, as they are a useful tool in identifying issues and problems that the Practice should be aware of

and need to address. Surveys are usually carried out no more than twice yearly, and are limited to a maximum of 10 questions.

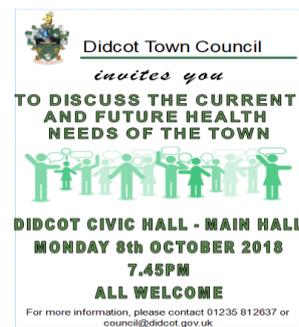
If you would be prepared to participate in future surveys, please sign up to be a member of the Patient Reference Group (PRG). If you used to be on the PRG, and didn't respond to Gill Suter last year (after the GDPR Data Protection regulations came out) to say that you are happy to continue, your details have been removed from the group, as required by law. If you do wish to continue, please advise the Practice. dhc.ppg@gmail.com.

WORKING WITH LOCAL COUNCILLORS

In July 2018, Shelagh Garvey gave a presentation to an Extraordinary General Meeting of Didcot Town Council, supported by Martin Tarran-Jones (Woodlands PPG). They outlined the key issues for patients and the need for Councillors to get involved, in constructive ways.

As a result, Shelagh was an invited panellist at a Public Event at the Civic Hall in October 2018. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Bill Service, and the other panellists included the Clinical Chair of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG), OCCG's

Director of Transformation, the County Council's Director of Public Health and the SWOLF Locality Clinical Director.



PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS

You may have heard that Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are on their way, and be wondering what this means for you. PCNs are a new way for Practices to work together to deliver integrated primary and community health care, and each PCN will cover a 'neighbourhood' of around 30,000 – 50,000 patients.

The three Didcot Practices have agreed to form a PCN. Please be reassured; the introduction of

the PCN doesn't mean that you no longer belong to the Didcot Health Centre Practice, or will no longer be able to see GPs based here. It does mean that additional advances in patient care will now be available locally, through multidisciplinary teams.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can order repeat prescriptions online, and choose the local pharmacy from which you want to collect your medication. You can also book some appointments online and have access to your medical records, including test

results. See the Practice website for details of how to obtain online access at www.didcothealthcentre.com/online-services.