

DIDCOT HEALTH CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

NEWSLETTER MAY 2022

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

The PPG Committee can now meet in person again, Dr. Adiba Malo has resigned, due to pressure of work, and this creates a vacancy – if you're interested, we'd love to hear from you.

The pandemic hasn't stopped us from pushing for healthcare facilities in large housing developments of which Didcot has plenty! The three Didcot PPG Chairs lobbied successfully for healthcare to be included in the plans for Valley Park, which will have over 4,000 dwellings.

We've also met several times with David Johnston MP and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG), to push for progress on proposed facilities at Great Western Park. Woodlands Medical Centre has taken most of the pressure, but there's been a knock-on effect on the Health Centre, which

is fast approaching capacity. OCCG have now appointed a specialist developer, who will also be the landlord for the new healthcare facility. Temporary solutions are also being discussed.

You don't need me to tell you that the Didcot surgeries are under enormous pressure, with' patient lists growing by the minute. PPGs are helping where they can, while pushing for timely solutions.



Shelagh Garvey, PPG Chair

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!! OUR 2022 AGM WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH JULY, AT 7 PM IN THE HEALTH CENTRE – GUEST SPEAKER DR. DAVID STAINTHORP

DIDCOT PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN)

PCNs share resources across surgeries in a local area and extend the range of treatments available, including specialist staff. The Didcot PCN covers the three Didcot surgeries, and the PCN Clinical Director is Dr Alex Hart, who is based at Woodlands Medical Centre.

Additional services through the PCN include Clinical Pharmacists, working with specific

groups, and a Diagnostic Physiotherapist. Physician Associates work under GP supervision on specific initiatives. Social Prescribers/Community Link Workers are developing a number of initiatives, including projects with Didcot Community Larder. Other posts include a much-needed Mental Health Worker (through the Mental Health Trust).

VACCINES UPDATE

The Covid vaccination programme at Didcot Civic Hall, organised by the Didcot Primary Care Network, was an outstanding success, all down to hard working NHS staff, supported by community volunteers and retired staff. The volunteers, led by Andrea Warren (Oak Tree PPG), have been awarded this year's Didcot Town Council Covid Hero Award.

The Clinics delivered 48,000 jabs, including 5,500 boosters – around 84% of the target group - while continuing to provide routine healthcare. Overall rates made South Oxfordshire the most successful District in Oxfordshire and one of the most successful in England.

We also delivered over 1,000 more flu jabs than normal; Health Centre Flu Clinics were extremely well organised and much appreciated, with positive feedback on local social media.



Queue for flu jabs at the Health Centre

Figures for the two 4th jab Clinics in April and May are not yet available

DIGITAL ZONE - GO ONLINE TO SAVE TIME

Online tools reduce trips to the Practice, free up phone lines, and reduce the amount of paper. These are the key ones - further details on the Practice website

and NHS website. Staff at the Health Centre can help you get access to the online tools that you need. NHS accounts can be set up on phones, laptops and desktops.

	Mobile/ tablet	Desktop/ laptop	Order repeats/ make appointments		Check symptoms/ get advice	Request sick note
NHS App	√		√	√	√	
Patient Access	√	√	√	√		
eConsult	√	√			√	√

INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEMS ARE COMING.

Integrated Care Systems (ICS) are new partnerships between organisations that meet health and care needs across an area, including Local Authorities, charities and voluntary organisations, to coordinate services and improve health. ICS are being set up in 42 areas across England.

Work has been going on for some time on the ICS for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire (BOB). BOB ICS isn't typical of an ICS, most of which are based on a clear centre, around one major hospital. Much of the existing structure in the three counties will continue through 'Place-Based Partnerships' and most things will be managed at 'Place' Level. The plan is for the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning

Group (OCCG) to be 'absorbed' into the BOB ICS in due course.

The views of patients are likely to be represented at ICS level by Healthwatch. Healthwatch Oxfordshire (HWO) is part of a national network, and its role is to hear what children, young people and adults have to say about health and social care services - praise, criticism or ideas for improvement - and use this to influence health and social care in Oxfordshire. We are in touch with HWO and await information on how they will ensure that arass roots patient views are communicated to the ICS.

www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk