

Riverside Medical Practice PPG Zoom meeting 13th August 2021

Chair: Kim Stoner accompanied by Chloe and Sandra

Attendees: Mr Dale (PPG chair) and 5 other PPG Members.

Apologies: Dr Malladi, Mr Badman, Mr Kittley, Mrs Oliver, Mrs Dyer, Mr and Mrs Sutherland.

There are now two new trainee GPs at the surgery - Dr Sarah and Dr Ola, which will increase capacity across both sites.

Face to face appointments are not available on demand at the moment although these can be asked for over the phone when speaking to the doctor - this is because it is essential to maintain social distancing in the waiting room. Kim mentioned that all too frequently patients turn up having said they do not have Covid symptoms, but when they then sit in the waiting room coughing – it could easily be that they do have the virus.

As the Cuxton waiting room is very small patients often have to wait outside until the doctor is ready to see them.

Covid booster vaccinations will be available from mid-September until December. These will be for patients over 65 and those who are vulnerable. Dr Malladi has asked the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for the Halling surgery to become a vaccination centre. If this is allowed volunteers may be required to assist acting as stewards. Kim will contact the booking clerk for the community centre to see if it's possible for the car park to be used by those attending the centre. A drawback to this will mean that there could be further queues waiting to enter the surgery that could affect patients waiting for non-vaccination reasons. As the weather will be getting colder than the idea of a temporary shelter for those waiting was suggested. Kim will look into the possibility of this. Action completed: Marquee or similar likely to obstruct pavement and not stable in high wind.

Mrs King asked what was happening to children 16-18 having the covid vaccinations. Kim explained at present we were only inviting people aged 17 years and 9 months to be vaccinated. There are still unanswered questions about the younger group possibly being done in schools.

Is there any way of a shelter/ awning for outside the surgery? Kim explained that this could be difficult but would discuss with Dr Malladi. Action completed. See above.

Mr Barnes asked how patients would be contacted for flu and covid booster? Kim explained that they would invited by text, if there is no mobile number recorded they would be telephoned or sent a letter. Over 65s and vulnerable patients are the priority.

PPG group offered to support with stewarding and volunteering if needed.