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**Minutes from Patient Participation Group**

**ZOOM Meeting held on Thursday 23th January 2025**

**Present:** Chair – Kerry Rainford,

Dr B Modi,

Mrs M Modi,

Mr Mahek Jitesh,

Geeta Sachdev

Paresh Shah

Zakaria Kari

Samantha Keating

Jacob Brown

1. **Apologies**

Apolgogies received from Mr & Mrs Pankhania

**2. Practice Update - Dr Modi**

* The portacabin has been permanently removed from the practice, freeing up space and improving accessibility.
* Plans have been put in place to renovate the upstairs rooms, ensuring they are better equipped for patient care and administrative use.

**3. Upcoming ICB Visit**

* Dr Modi informed the PPG group that an ICB visit is scheduled for February.
* The exact purpose of the visit remains unclear, but it has been described as a "supportive visit." The practice aims to use this opportunity to discuss key challenges and potential areas for development.

**4. Vaccination Uptake - Samantha (ICB)**

* Samantha, one of the ICB leads in vaccinations, attended the meeting to discuss strategies to improve vaccination uptake within the practice.
* She highlighted the availability of local services such as mobile units and walk-in clinics, which have been effective in increasing vaccination rates by making access more convenient for patients.
* However, she noted that patients have become more hesitant about vaccinations following the COVID-19 pandemic, citing concerns over safety and side effects.
* The group discussed ways to address misinformation and provide reassurance to patients about the benefits and safety of routine immunisations.

**5. Strategies to Improve Vaccination Rates**

* Samantha suggested implementing birthday card reminders for childhood vaccinations. For example, when a child turns one, a birthday card could be sent alongside a friendly reminder to book their vaccinations. This approach could personalise the reminder and make it more engaging for parents.
* Dr Modi emphasized that, due to the small practice list size, even a few families not attending immunisation appointments could significantly impact the surgery’s performance metrics and QOF targets.
* Samantha also informed the group that HPV vaccination campaigns will soon be launched by the ICB, targeting eligible patients to increase uptake and reduce the risk of HPV-related diseases.

**6. Engaging Younger Patients - Jacob Brown (ICB)**

* Jacob Brown joined the meeting to explore ways to better engage younger people with the PPG and healthcare services.
* He acknowledged that younger populations are often difficult to reach, as they are occupied with schoolwork, homework, and part-time jobs.
* The group discussed that younger patients typically do not access healthcare services frequently and may not see an immediate need to participate in groups like the PPG.
* Jacob suggested using an incentive-based approach to attract engagement. For instance, involvement in the PPG or health-related activities could be promoted as an opportunity to develop skills, gain experience, and enhance personal statements or CVs, making participation more appealing to young people.
* The group agreed that using digital platforms such as WhatsApp could also help facilitate communication and engagement with younger patients.

**Action Points:**

1. **Explore the idea of birthday card reminders for childhood vaccinations.**
2. **Explore other ideas of engaging families/children for childhood vaccinations.**
3. **Prepare for the upcoming ICB visit in February.**
4. **Develop strategies to engage younger patients in the PPG through incentives.**

**Next meeting: May 2025**