

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (ARGYLE PRACTICE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17TH. AUGUST 2016

ATTENDEES : Colin Beech, Dennis Evans (Chair), Tony Wales, Chris Taylor, Rose Blackburn, Luci Jane Whealan, Jane McNaughton, Alex Jones (Practice Manager)

There was only one agenda item : Closure of afternoon surgeries at St Oswald's Pembroke and St. Clement's Neyland.

The Chair asked AJ to summarise the reasons for stopping afternoon appointments at the two surgeries.

1. Since the middle of July, it was noticed that the stress levels on nursing staff and doctors was at an all-time high. Decision taken to try and alleviate the situation.
2. Some twenty (20) different options were considered.
3. One GP was on long term sick and two of the nursing staff had unplanned medical leave
4. Withdrawing afternoon appointments was considered the safest way forward.
5. Health Board, Assembly Members and local elected representatives had been informed of the decision.

Discussions took place around the fact that problems in GP practices was not restricted to Argyle Practice because it was seen as a national problem. AJ suggested that the PPG should start a lobbying campaign involving the local health board and the Welsh Government.

CT was very concerned about the impact of stopping appointments at the Neyland Surgery. He suggested that an open letter signed jointly by the Practice and the PPG should be circulated around the area.

AJ informed the meeting that the new arrangements would be under review but that it seemed unlikely that the system would revert back to normal in the short term. Concern for the safety of staff and patients were his main concern.

ACTION : Open letter to be developed and signed and distributed. AJ, DE, and CT.

Date for next meeting : Wednesday 14th. September at 5pm at the surgery.

