

## **Patient Participation Group Meeting**

### **By Videoconference**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 6.00 p.m.**

### **Seaford Medical Practice**

### **Minutes**

**Attendees:** Sue Smith (Chair), Susan Hewer, Penny Lower, Sandy Richards, Des Prichard, Steve Machan, Christina Machan, John Edson, Roy Dobson, Charis Isted, Myrtle Kracke, Jean Cash, Dr Dan Elliott (SMP), Phil Abbott (SMP), Lorraine Downey (SMP)

**Apologies:** David Burleigh, Pam Burleigh, Peter Norman, Zena Gibbs, Maggie Chitty, Min Stone, Ruth Mitchell, Gill Allen, Val Callon and Dr Palo Almond

#### **1. Welcome:**

- 1.1.** SS welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to JC, who has just joined the PPG. LD will take brief notes of the meeting, which will be circulated to members and posted on the Practice website in the usual way
- 1.2.** At the start of the meeting members shared with the group other societies and groups to which they belong in order to determine the extent of their reach within the Seaford population. It included a wide range of groups and many people. DP is now a “COVID Vaccinations Champion”, with an objective to sharing information regarding COVID vaccinations within the community. He has undertaken a two day training course through the East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- 1.3.** The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting
- 1.4.** Update on action points from previous meeting (not discussed at the meeting due to time constraints; update post meeting included here

for information): (3.4) work on the early diagnosis of cancer has been delayed due to focus required on immediate COVID clinical issues; (4.1) suggested updates to Practice website provided by SH and CI; most updates actioned, a few outstanding

## **2. COVID-19 Issues:**

**2.1.** Update from the Practice: PA gave a detailed update, including a clear statement on the commitment of the Seaford Practices to the COVID vaccination programme, the progress that has currently been made locally with the vaccination programme, the background to vaccine availability since the programme started, reasons for locations of vaccination centres and the vaccination programme and venues going forward (please see appendix 1)

**2.2.** Members felt the update was very helpful and largely felt reassured. Questions raised included:

2.2.1. How are patients being contacted about vaccinations: for appointments with South Downs Health & Care (SDHC) GP Federation (the provider of vaccinations on behalf of the two Seaford Practices and five Eastbourne Practices), appointments are being made by telephone, text and letter. Initially it had been by phone only, but now texts and letters are being used. SDHC is not currently using emails. As other (mass) vaccination centres come on stream across Sussex, for example, the Brighton Centre, NHS England is sending out letters and emails. Attendees acknowledged the confusion that could be caused

2.2.2. How will patients that are housebound receive their vaccinations: Sussex Community Foundation Trust are coordinating the vaccination plan for Practices across Sussex, including Seaford. The plan has not yet been finalised

2.2.3. What happens if someone misses a phone call for an appointment: the patient will be left on the contact list and further attempts will be made to contact the patient; they will not be “declined”

- 2.2.4. Are vaccines being wasted at the end of vaccination clinics: SDHC has worked incredibly hard to ensure the number of vaccines are maximised. They have ensured that more than the anticipated doses have been extracted from the vaccine vials, meaning that rather than wastage occurring, more patients than anticipated had been able to be vaccinated
- 2.2.5. How will patients know that they fall within the “extremely clinically vulnerable” group: DE provided an overview for attendees. He will produce some wording to put on the Practice website to provide clarity for patients – **action DE**
- 2.2.6. Why have some people younger than 80 received vaccinations before all patients aged 80 years+ have received their vaccination: some patients will have received vaccinations from different organisations, e.g. hospitals, and they may have had particular clinical reasons why they provided a vaccination. As far as SDHC was concerned, in the very early days and to make sure that all appointments were filled at very short notice and to avoid vaccine wastage, if a patient aged 80+ attended for a vaccination with their spouse / partner, the spouse / partner may have been given a vaccination. This approach stopped a number of weeks ago. The 7 Practices working together with SDHC work to the principle that one Practice won't move on to the next priority group of patients while patients of a higher priority group at one of the other Practices remain unvaccinated. This is to ensure equality of vaccination roll out
- 2.2.7. Can the website be updated more often: the Practice is currently updating the Practice website weekly. The update includes information on the number of patients vaccinated, the current focus for vaccinations and any other important information. If key information becomes available in between the weekly update, going forward, the Practice will add it to the website. The Practice will also discuss with DP, as Vaccinations Champion, how else we can share information in a timely, informative and succinct way – **action DE / PA / DP**

2.2.8. How can I volunteer to help: anyone wishing to volunteer in the vaccination programme can flag their interest via the SDHC website <http://www.sdhc.org.uk/>

2.2.9. How are patients moving in and out of an area picked up: this will either be by way of the new Practice receiving the patient record and identifying a vaccination is due or by an NHS letter being sent to the patient if they come within one of the top 4 priority groups

## **5 Update from the Practice:**

**5.1** Angela Easton, Patient Services Manager: PA shared the news that Angela will be retiring at the end of March after more than 30 years with the Practice. Attendees asked PA to pass on their best wishes to Angela

**5.2** New Business Manager: PA advised that the Practice had appointed his successor. Nadia White will be joining as Business Manager at the end of March; Nadia will come to the PPG meetings going forward

## **6 Any Other Business:**

**6.1** Nothing raised

## **7 Date of next meeting:**

**7.1** The next meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 6.00 p.m. by videoconference. PA will send out a link for the meeting via SS a couple of weeks before the meeting

**7.2** DE and PA will liaise with DP in his role as Vaccinations Champion between now and the next meeting to facilitate information provision

Minutes: *Lorraine Downey, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.*

## COVID Vaccinations Briefing Note for SMP PPG 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

- Firstly may I make clear that the GPs at both Seaford Practices are fully committed to the COVID vaccination programme. The Seaford Practices were in the “early waves” of GP Practices signing up to be part of the vaccination programme. And one of our Seaford GPs, Dr Raj Chandarana is leading the coordinated vaccination programme being undertaken on behalf of both Seaford Practices and five Eastbourne Practices.
- As at 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2152 SMP patients have been vaccinated
- Vaccinations for residents and staff at all Seaford care homes except for 2 have been undertaken (not appropriate to undertake vaccinations there for clinical reasons at the present time)
- All patients aged 80 or older (other than patients that are housebound) have either had a vaccination or have an appointment to have a vaccination by 30<sup>th</sup> January
- Of Cohort 3, patients aged 75 – 79, 40% have already received their 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination (473 / 1185 as at 26<sup>th</sup> January)
- No GP Practice is doing COVID vaccinations on their own, they are doing it as part of a group of Practices. This is because no Practice can cope with a large scale vaccination programme (much larger than the seasonal flu campaign) alongside the additional patient care arising from COVID infections and the usual additional winter work pressures
- SMP and OSS, as the Seaford PCN, together with the (Eastbourne) ALPS PCN (5 Practices), is delivering the vaccination programme through South Downs Health & Care GP Federation
- Seaford PCN was in the early wave of Practices signing up to deliver the COVID vaccinations
- Each GP group had to nominate a delivery site. The delivery site had to have appropriate storage facilities and reasonable access facilities. The site also had to have the capability of delivering 975 vaccines within a 3 day window at short notice. Each GP group could only nominate one site for the group. The Pfizer vaccine could not, under NHS England instruction, be transported to another site other than the nominated site and it could not be transported from the nominated site to another site
- None of the 7 general practices involved in the group could meet these requirements. This is why Hampden Park was identified
- Up until 8<sup>th</sup> January, the only vaccine available to SDHC was the Pfizer vaccine. On 8<sup>th</sup> January, the first batch of Astra Zeneca vaccines were received – 400 doses. A further 300 doses of AZ vaccines were received the following week, week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January. The AZ vaccine can be transported between sites (under strict conditions). This small number of doses of AZ vaccines were utilised in the vaccination of care home residents across the Seaford PCN and ALPS PCN patient groups – care homes being the top priority group as set out by the Government and NHS England
- It was not until the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> January that SDHC received a sizeable batch of AZ vaccines – approx. 3000
- On receipt of the bigger batch of AZ vaccines, the Seaford PCN agreed with SDHC and the Clinical Commissioning Group that SDHC should run a vaccination clinic in Seaford to vaccinate those patients aged 80 and over who had not been able to get to Eastbourne. Those clinics are taking place this Saturday at both SMP and OSS. The vaccination clinics will mean that all patients aged

80 or over and care home residents will have received a COVID vaccination (except those housebound or those who were unwell or did not want a vaccine)

- SDHC recognised that Hampden Park did not present a suitable, ongoing site as a mass vaccination centre. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January, SDHC relocated their vaccination centre from Hampden Park to the Sovereign Centre in Eastbourne. The Sovereign Centre is much bigger than Hampden Park, it can accommodate more patients in a better environment, fully adhering to safe social distancing requirements and has much better car parking
- Going forward, the Sovereign Centre will be the main vaccination centre for patients in Seaford (both OSS and SMP). It is set up to receive both types of vaccine (Pfizer and AZ), it can operate 7 days a week and is expected to be able to vaccinate more than 1000 patients a day (subject to vaccine supply)
- As-hoc clinics will take place in Seaford for patients that cannot get to Eastbourne
- Our strong advice remains that for those who receive an invitation to attend the Eastbourne Sovereign Centre vaccination service, and you are able to travel there, that you attend that appointment so you can receive this vaccination as soon as possible
- The Brighton Centre is also now available for patients in the Priority cohorts 1 – 4 to book directly

Phil Abbott

Business Partner, Seaford Medical Practice

26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.