

UPPER DALES HEALTH WATCH STP (as it effects Darlington Memorial Hospital) Meeting

Wednesday 5th April 2017

Those present

Dr Jonathan Pain	Central Dales Practice
Cllr. Richard Blows	Richmondshire District Council - Swaledale
Cllr. Caroline Thornton-Berry	Richmondshire District Council - Penhill
Ann Calvert	Castle Bolton Parish Meeting
Christine Baker	Redmire Parish Council
Jane Ritchie (Hon. Secretary)	Burton-cum-Walden Parish Council
Chris Harrison	Preston-under-Scar Parish Council
Geoffrey Linehan	Leyburn PPG

Apologies

Lynn Irwin	Practice Manager, Central Dales Practise
Dr Michael Brookes	Reeth Medical Centre
Jenny Pilgrim	Dent
Debbie Allen	Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council

Jane reported she had written as requested to:-

- a) Rishi Sunak MP, and received a reply which she read out.
- b) Edmund Lovell, Better Health Programme and had received a reply that our concerns would be noted.
- c) Cllr. John Blackie. Jane had sent a reminder email. (Purdah because of NYCC elections may have precluded him from responding).
- d) Leyburn PPG and Reeth Medical Practice. Geoffrey Linehan attended and said Leyburn PPG would like to work with UDHW on this issue.
- e) Richmondshire Today. Joe Willis was aware of the issue, and hopes to be able to campaign at some point in the future when resources allow.

The public consultation had been postponed until the autumn. It was therefore agreed it was too early to use Graham Bottley's poster.

Copies of the blank letter to Rishi Sunak MP were available at both surgeries and Dr Pain confirmed patients were completing them. **ACTION 1:** Jane to send copy to all UDHW Reps and Geoffrey (✓).

ACTION 2: Take up Rishi's offer to visit the Upper Dales Practice and include representatives from Leyburn & Reeth in the invitation. Jane to discuss possible dates with Rishi's Office Manager and with Lynn Irwin. Caroline thought early May might be possible. MPs representing rural areas had formed a group called SPARSE to debate their common issues.

ACTION 3: Jane to speak to Pete Summerfield at YAS about YAS's views on STP plans and the risk to services at Darlington.

ACTION 4: Invite one of the decision makers from STP to visit Upper dales and offer to visit Stockton in return.

ACTION 5: Caroline to contact Chris Ham at The King's Fund to see what their view of rural health issues is.

ACTION 6: Dr Pain to identify one or more clinicians involved with STP planning to see if we could encourage one or more of them to visit so as to appreciate the distances patients have to travel.

General points

- Most mothers want to have their babies in a consultant led unit.
- James Cook's helipad has landing lights.
- Clinicians want one perinatal unit for the STP area – this would inevitably be at James Cook.
- There is unlikely to be any funding for new capital works as a result of any reconfiguration of NHS services in the STP area.
- £900K+ has been saved across HRW 2016-17 through changes in prescribing.

A discussion on what the community could do in the way of self-help took place. Transport, support for Step up/ Step down accommodation and support for GP practices were mentioned. [Jane is in the process of setting up a charity called the Health Accommodation Trust (HAT), to support the Step up / Step down rooms across the HRWCCG area.]

ACTION 7: Discuss possibilities for self-help further in light of challenging financial year ahead for HRWCCG budget.

ACTION 8: Caroline to find out whether the YDNPA's Sustainability Fund could support Health service provision within the National Park e.g. the Step up/ Step down facility in Bainbridge.

It was agreed we need to focus on issues that are critical for our communities, so it may be that the Ambulance Service provision will turn out to be our "red line".

ACTION 9: Jane to convene a further joint meeting to prepare for Rishi Sunak's visit when a date for this has been agreed.

AOB – *Dr Pain reported that CQC had found out about prescription drop off points and the present system would need to be reviewed. This could be a question of risk assessments, getting patients' consent in writing or reduced hours for collection with a voluntary supervision system in place. All UDHW Reps present were sure solutions could be found.*

ACTION 10: Lynn to discuss with Jane when CQC report published. Solutions would be suggested for each drop off point through discussion with the UDHW Representative concerned and the person hosting the drop off point.