**Abridge Surgery PPG Meeting**

**Wednesday 30th January 2025**

**Abridge Village Hall**

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated via email and agreed upon at this meeting.**

**Dr. D Colvin – Dr. B Isinkaye**

**37 Ongar Road**

**Abridge**

**RM4 1UH**

**Tel NO: 01992 812 961**

**Representing Surgery:** Monika Smith, Loraine Oliver

**Members:** Janette Dear, Pam Halawi, Barbara Admonson, Tina Marns, Ray Russell

**Apologies:** Alison Middleton, Sue Parish

**Surgery Updates**

* The new nurse has successfully joined the practice.
* Extra Monday appointments are proving effective.
* Doctor Availability:
  + Dr. Dickson is regularly covering Monday evenings.
  + Dr. Kataria is currently working on Monday in the mornings.
  + Both doctors will remain as long as funding allows.
  + Dr. Jafri is working on Fridays and is in the process of becoming a salaried GP.
* The practice is working towards becoming a training practice, which would allow the placement of a GP registrar (a qualified doctor specializing in general practice). This would bring additional funding and provide extra patient appointments.
* **Appointment Availability:**
  + Monika is working to increase available appointments, subject to funding and training practice status.
  + A mix of face-to-face and telephone appointments is offered, with partners continuing telephone consultations where appropriate.
* **Specialist Services:**
  + A Musculoskeletal (MSK) practitioner is available on Tuesdays.
* **Space & Infrastructure:**
  + A portable cabin in the car park was discussed as a potential space solution, but the cost is prohibitive.
  + The surgery is exploring internal reconfigurations to optimize space.
  + The back door remains broken. The landlord has committed to fixing it in April.
  + The group raised concerns that a fire door with a push bar exit is necessary for security, but the landlord prefers a like-for-like replacement.
  + Leaking ceilings have been repaired.
  + Carpets and painting are still pending.
* **Blood Tests:**
  + The surgery aims to offer blood tests for patients over 75 and vulnerable individuals.
  + Monika can allocate one hour per week for this, but current collection constraints require samples to be collected within four hours, posing a challenge.
  + Discussions are ongoing with the Integrated Care Provider (ICP) to shift the collection time from 9 AM to 3 PM.
* **Patient Feedback:**
  + The surgery received a complaint about the phone message being offensive. The group reviewed it and found no issue.
  + It was suggested that Monika ask the patient for specific concerns regarding the message.

**Any Other Business (AOB)**

* Concerns were raised about patient loneliness. The group suggested organizing a social meet-up every other Wednesday from 10 AM to 12 noon in the village hall.
* The group proposed inviting guest speakers to future meetings (e.g., fire services, nurses, pharmacy representatives).
* After the meeting, Tina contacted the fire brigade to request a speaker for the next meeting. She received a response indicating they would follow up, but no confirmation had been received at the time of writing these minutes.

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday, 24th April 2025, at 12 noon in the Village Hall**