

Umbrella Group Report 18th September 2019, Town Hall, Liskeard

This was the first meeting for the new Chair, Penny Prisk. In attendance were PPG representatives from the following practices: Launceston, Tamar Valley, Rosedean, Saltash, Oak Tree and Rame. Peter and I represented Port View.

One common thread across the PPGs represented was that they were struggling with membership and several are anticipating changes in respect of key posts such as Chair and Secretary.

At this meeting we had Rick Stead, talking about the work done by the organisation 'Together We Can Succeed' based just outside Callington. This organisation comprises three others, i.e. Work Skills South West, Battling On and Transferable Skills Training. Some of us had met Rick before at a Volunteer Cornwall meeting a few months ago when he was talking to people about how they get people referred to their organisation for help. This therefore means that there is a similarity with the Social Prescribing programme.

They help all age groups, but have a big part in the education of youngsters who don't always benefit from traditional schools or colleges. Additionally, they hold specific sessions for other groups and use a certain amount of animal-based therapy. By the end of Rick's talk a few of us really wanted to go along to see the alpacas and long-haired donkeys!

Rick is happy to speak to all groups about the work they do and we are considering a joint event with the Saltash Health Centre.

As Julie Rogers, the usual minute taker, was unable to attend the Chair asked all attendees to provide a summary of what they reported relating to their own practice and patients group; my summary for Port View is below.

My report on behalf of Port View

1. Locality Management Meeting

I attended in July because no one else was available to represent the Umbrella Group. I couldn't contribute much. However, I was interested to hear that some things we had been involved in, e.g. the patient survey regarding extended GP hours, were being discussed and how they were progressing. That said, I did wonder if the Umbrella Group ought to prepare something in advance to 'report' to this meeting/audience?

2. Social Prescribing

On Saturday 14th September I attended a community event in Saltash Town Hall, to which some local community groups had been invited to promote themselves. Although not well attended by the public, it gave me and my PPG colleagues an opportunity to speak to the stall holders to explain to them what Social Prescribing is and encourage them to sign up to Cornwall Link (if appropriate) to make themselves more visible.

It was a worthwhile exercise as about 80% of the groups represented had never heard of SP. It felt as though we were 'joining the dots' and that a lot more needs to be done to promote local connections.

Just as I was leaving, I discovered that our new Link Worker had arrived to do pretty much the same thing! She started work in Saltash on Monday this week. The Port View PPG will be helping the practice to inform patients about the role of the Link Worker.

3. In addition:

- Peter gave a brief summary of the Locality Summit meeting he attended on 17th September in Liskeard. Other Umbrella Group members had also attended and there was a brief discussion.
These summits take place every few months and include medical professionals as well as PPG representatives from all of the South East Cornwall practices, which comprise the recently created Primary Care Network (PCN).
- Also, in the light of comments from other practices, Peter and I were pleased to say that our PPG membership is still strong.

Angie Fisher
PPG Vice Chair