
Notes from the Forum meeting 18 July 2013 held from 2-4 pm at St Peters, Harrogate

Ann Hill welcomed everyone to the forum and asked for members to sign in on the sheets provided and to place a name badge on. Unfortunately the proposed speaker on eye care was not able to attend the meeting but fortunately David Hall, Lay member of Harrogate and Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group and Bridget Read, Engagement Manager HaRD were available to give a presentation.

Harrogate and Rural District CCG

The Harrogate and Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group is known as HaRD CCG. The new NHS organisation was created in 2012 and is run by a body of GP's, Senior Managers and other health professionals. There are 19 GP practices in Harrogate district which serve a population of 160,000 and have a budget of £177 million. They took full control of responsibilities on 1 April 2013 and are now working hard with partners to improve health systems and reducing the deficit of £1.8 million inherited from the PCT.

Their vision is to secure high quality services in the most appropriate setting, making maximum use of available resources, through clinical leadership and collaborative working to achieve the best possible health outcomes for all our population. The strategic priority areas include Health and wellbeing, planned safe and effective care, long term conditions and urgent care and vulnerable people (including Mental Health).

There are lots of public engagement events planned with a full engagement strategy to be published later this year. There was the opportunity for members to sign up to HaRD Net and receive a regular newsletter, take part in surveys, be invited to meetings and events and have the opportunity to give experiences of local services. David encouraged everyone to join HaRD Net and to pass on the information to friends and neighbours. There will be a Patient Involvement Forum in February 2014, more information regarding this can be obtained nearer the time. For further information email:

hardccg.enquiries@nhs.net Website: www.harrogateandruraldistrictccg.nhs.uk

Health Watch

David Ita, is the Partnership Co-ordinator from Health Watch, who are the new consumer champion for the public, patients, health and social care users, carers and their families. They are the ones you go to if you have a complaint about your GP, Dentist or Care Home and they feed back to commissioners and service providers on your behalf. David has been conducting drop-in's at libraries to inform the public about the service and was in Harrogate Library 6th June. For further information and to get involved call 01904 621631 or view the website www.healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk

Group Discussions

Members were invited to take part in group discussions on how they feel about their local health services and to have their say on what they think should be improved. Questions were asked around access to their GP's and personal experiences of the service, Hospital outpatient visits and whether regular health screening checks in place. Christine will collate the information and report back to the HaRD CCG and Healthwatch on the views of the groups.

Outing to Helmsley Walled Garden

Members were reminded of a trip to the Helmsley Walled Garden on 2nd August and requested to leave their contact details if they wished to sign up. For more information, please contact Christine Boxall at Harrogate & District Over 50s Forum on 01423 813094 or carerstimeoff@harrogatecvs.org.uk

Next Forum Meeting

The next Forum meeting will take place on Thursday 26th September 2013, from 2-4pm at St Peters Church.