

Minutes of Yell Health Support Group AGM held on 10th April in Yell Health Centre at 7:00pm

Present: Angus, Annette, Jill, Mark, Rosie, Dan, Rae, Julia and Patricia.

Apologies: Robert, Alexis and Doreen

Minutes of meeting of 25th October 2012 were read and agreed.

Outstanding items:

Patricia is to check with Debbie Guthrie about paying for the rent of oxygen cylinders for emergencies. It was to be £5 per cylinder per month but we have not had an invoice to date. There is less need to buy an oxygen concentrator because NHS Shetland has provided more oxygen cylinders and a metal storage cabinet for them.

Minutes of AGM:

Office bearers: Treasurer to be Annette, proposed and seconded by Julia and Rosie. Patricia to be secretary; proposed and seconded by Rosie and Rae. After some discussion Mark agreed to stay as Chairman in the interim and then review situation when new GP is in post. Mark welcomed Jill to her first meeting.

Annette said that for purposes of OSCR we need to minute who trustees actually are: Mark Aquilina (Chairman), Annette Jamieson (Treasurer), Patricia Odie (Secretary), Angus Jamieson, Jill Thomson, Rae Thompson, Julia Smith, Rosie Briscoe, Dan Thompson, Alexis Goodlad, Doreen Strachan and Robert Jamieson.

Accounts and equipment:

Annette presented copies of annual accounts. Copy will be sent with these minutes. We have a balance of £4294 at year end. We have repaired out 24-hour blood pressure monitor and bought a new one as well. This cost a total of approx £1200, leaving a current balance of approx £3000.

Dan said that Robert had mentioned The Sinclair Trust which still has money not being used and suggested that this be amalgamated with our group. This is will depend on the trustees/committee of that Trust. Patricia to check with Robert.

Annette wondered how aware the general public were of the group's existence, what is available for loan, the cost of items, etc. There is a deposit payable on many items, it was agreed this should be on all, and this raises the awareness, but it was generally agreed that many people will not know of the group. There was a piece in "Northern Outlook" of Shetland Times and there were many notices up about the AGM. Mark and Rosie will be sending out one more newsletter and they will mention the group in that. Also see minute below re Facebook page.

Physiotherapy provision:

A meeting was held in Health Centre on 5th March with Jo Robinson (Executive Manager of Occupational Therapy) and Anne Caffrey (physio for North Isles). Jo had promised to bring up our concerns at a meeting planned for the following week. This meeting never happened and she was thinking of other ways to help. Patricia tried to contact her by e-mail prior to this meeting but had had no response.

Dan will bring up at next Yell Community Council meeting.

Patient Participation Group Pack:

A pack from NHS Scotland with information about forming a patient participation group and arrived at health centre. Both Patricia and Annette have read this booklet. Patricia left in tray for GPs but could not lay her hands on it for the meeting. She will get a few more packs and distribute before the next meeting.

Annette remembered that it was a more proactive form of group. It is used to feed back to the health centre and the health board.

Facebook page: Mark and Rosie felt that the health board were not trying hard enough to find replacement GPs. Linda Anderson had added a status to her Facebook page saying if anyone was interested in the post to get in touch. It was agreed this may be a good way to raise awareness of the post being empty. It was agreed to ask Linda to create a Support Group Facebook page linked to our website. Both she and Patricia could administer the page.

GP job:

The health board have had an advert in BMJ and it is advertised on LinkedIn (a new way for professionals to find jobs). It was agreed that health board need to keep trying to sell the job not just place an odd advert. Mark and Rosie have also suggested using RuralGP.com.

Filling a single handed rural practice is difficult. Not many GPs want to be on-call 24 hours a day and are used to working shorter hours. There is no way to change the parameters since it is an island practice and there is no-one to share the on-call. Two doctors sharing the practice would be ideal but the health board cannot change it to be a two doctor practice. Financially it would need to be a principle GP and another to share the running of the practice. This would ensure they would both get the time off needed.

Mark and Rosie will continue practice as locum GPs until June. There is a locum working here in May who has two small children and who is looking at taking a year's sabbatical. If she would agree to work here regularly it would at least ensure some continuity for the patients.

Letter from Yell Arts Group:

This letter asked for wall space to exhibit postcard sized art by local artists. It was agreed that it would be okay to use surgery walls but health centre staff should not be involved in the selling of the art, ie interested parties need to contact Arts Group or the artist.

Mark will feed back to the Arts Group.

Patient Travel:

Dan said the Yell Community Council had received an e-mail about Red Cross providing volunteer drivers to get patients to appointments in Lerwick. Mark and Rosie had heard nothing about this proposition. Dan will forward copy of e-mail. (I will attach with these minutes).

Peripheral Clinics:

These are becoming increasingly difficult. Since practice is now "paperlite" (as per Scottish Executive guidelines) and laptop provided by health board is not entirely reliable, Mark and Rosie are concerned that patient safety may suffer. They are trying to encourage all patients that can, to travel to Mid Yell to be seen. There are some who simply cannot manage this though and there is the issue of delivering drugs to each end of the island. The drug delivery was started following the abolition of the delivery by postmen.

Ways around the problem were discussed including – dial-a-ride is used in some areas, WRVS is used in Whalsay, etc. It was felt that volunteer drivers, similar to set up for podiatry, could work.

Patricia to check if there are insurance issues for the drivers and then we may need to advertise for more volunteers.

Rosie explained that they did not want the new GP to appear like a "bad guy" if they should decide to stop these clinics in the name of safety. She felt it was a good idea to make people aware of the issues they could foresee.

Next meeting to be held in Yell Health Centre will be on Thursday 6th June at 7pm.

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