

Reading Patient Voice Group, RPVG, minutes 18 Sept 2024

Location: Committee Room 4A, Civic Centre Reading.

Present in room: Laurence Napier Peele (chair), Jean Bowlstear, Francis Brown, David Cooper, Cathy Cousins, Tony James (speaker), Shaheen Kausar, Catherine Mustill and John Walford.

Present virtually: Mark Drucker, Alice Kunjappy-Clifton (Healthwatch Reading), Sunila Lobo, Geoffrey Million, Brian & Tomiko Morley and Paul Williams.

Apologies: Tom Lake and Simon Shaw (Healthwatch West Berkshire).

Secretary for this meeting: Francis Brown.

Agenda item 2 South Central Ambulance Trust – a Governor’s View – Tony Jones

David Cooper welcomed and introduced our speaker Tony Jones, a Reading Councillor for decades and in that time chair of a number of committees. He is currently a Governor of the South Central Ambulance service, SCAS. The presentation is attached. Towards the end he made the following points:

- The delays in getting to patients and the delays in transferring patients from ambulances were significant issues. Significant delays at one or more hospitals do impact on the availability of ambulances to take patients to other hospitals as well.
- The main driver of handover delays was the availability of beds.
- The main driver for the delays in moving patients ready for discharge was the lack of investment in suitable support facilities in the community.
- He also encouraged members to share the presentation with other so that the work of SCAS could be more widely appreciated.

Agenda item 8 Any other Business

The Chair explained this was brought forward so that it was not lost at the end of the meeting.

- **Older Persons’ Day event**, Tuesday 1 Oct 2024, Broad Street Mall 9:30 to 2:00 p.m.
 - Free health check, free hearing tests, seated exercises, country dance demo, Age UK Choir, pension credit surgery, free benefits check, organised by Age UK and supported by 30 other groups.
- **Proposed closure of the University Medical Groups branch practice at Whitley Villa, 1 Christchurch Road.**
 - Photo copies of a recent press article were circulated to those at the Civic Centre. The PPG had been kept in the picture. The feeling was that there was an overall benefit in moving out of a building with limited facilities and in need of renovation. It was also recognised that patients living nearby would be inconvenienced.

Agenda item 3 Report From Royal Berkshire Hospital Governors

Sunila Lobo reported as follows. The line to Paul Williams in Istanbul was very poor.

- Overseas recruitment is difficult because of Brexit and more recently, because of a new rule that families can’t be brought along by new foreign recruits is making it challenging.
- Finances - deficit is challenging
- New Chair recruitment is underway

- New Hospital Programme (NHP) stalled by government, with priority for funding hospitals with RAAC.

Agenda item 4 Reports from Patient Participation Groups

- University Medical Group, consultation as above.

Agenda item 5 Report from Healthwatch Reading

- Ran out of time. Deferred to next meeting.

Next Meeting Discussion

The chair proposed that the October meeting should be skipped or a business meeting. FB proposed that **Agenda item 6 (Report of meeting with Sara Wise regarding the 2024 GP Patient Survey)** and **Agenda item 7 (Report of BOB board meeting 17 Sept)** should now be part of the October meeting. This was agreed.

Date of the next meeting

Subject of room availability, Wednesday 16 Oct 2024 at 6 p.m.