



June Newsletter 2024



The Apples Medical Centre – June 2024 Newsletter

Apples PG Chair notes June 2024

Well summer sun, how long will it last, and now a General Election on 4th July 2024. What a new Government will do to improve the NHS goodness knows.

We have had some positive moves at the surgery over the last couple of months.

The new clinical floor opened by Chris Loder MP, is operating well and has been a tremendous improvement in patient care.

Monthly soundbites continue to be a great success, and indeed our new 8 members for the Patient Group (APG) came directly from the March soundbite.

They all have become a member of an “action group” tackling functions, e.g., digital exclusion, ICB/NHS liaison, patient information, and talks/tutorials (the first is for NHS App), patient needs survey, Yeatman hospital links, community engagement etc.

James Griffin (PCN) has been helpful in providing continuing support, and will lead on the NHS App tutorial, for The Apples patients later in the year, and web site improvements.

Overall, there has been no let-up in the demand for patient service, and with the APG wanting to support the Practice, opportunities to make a big positive difference are now appearing.

Our resolve to learn more about the NHS position and the political climate is ongoing, to ensure we can aid and support the members of our Practice to reduce their working pressures.

This is a long-term approach and adding Community Health etc we have at least started the process.

The 2024 Programme has been issued to the patient Group, and will provide a framework for the future work, alongside the continuing improvements to the Apples web site – do look at <https://www.sherborneapples.co.uk>

Enjoy the summer.

In the meantime, stay healthy.

Bruce Duncan, PPG Chair

bruceduncanab@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.sherborneapples.co.uk>

Facebook: The Apples Medical Centre

Instagram: sherborneapples



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Practice Update



Workforce updates:

Sarah Sutcliffe Practice Nurse is expecting her baby any day now and we all wish her the best of luck.

Alison Evans (Pictured left) new Practice Nurse started with us on 7th May 2024, Alison has over 30 years' experience in secondary care, she has undertaken an intensive course in Primary Care Treatment room nursing, she is a welcome addition to the team.

Appointments:

We are consistently trying to strive to balance our clinical rota to match the appointment demand, we understand that it can be frustrating if you have to wait weeks to get a routine appointment, we are doing our best, the Summer months will be challenging but please bear with us, we are planning to review our appointment system/practice processes in the near future to see what we can improve for our patients and workforce.

NHS Health checks/Long Term Conditions/Recalls:

If you receive an invite to book for NHS Health Check, Asthma, Diabetes, COPD review or annual blood tests please do contact the surgery to book an appointment or book via the link that you are sent.

Waiting Room Blood Pressure monitoring:

We are going to trial having a Blood Pressure station in our main Waiting Room – this is for patients who don't normally have their blood pressure taken, or don't have a blood pressure machine at home – there will be simple instructions on how to use the machine including what our process is for high readings – we will trial over the Summer and review!

Primary Care Network:

We are part of the Sherborne Primary Care Network along with The Grove Medical Centre and Yetminster Health Centre; within the PCN we have additional roles that work along the surgeries; Social Prescribers, Clinical Pharmacists and Technicians, Frailty Team and Mental Health team – our Reception team have been trained to signpost you to the quickest and most suitable clinicians, this may not always be your GP but one of the teams listed above

Carers:

If you are looking after someone physically, practically, or emotionally and they could not manage without your help then you are a carer. You could be helping an elderly neighbour do their shopping, taking a friend or relative to their doctors' appointments or a young person helping support a family member, whatever it is it is important to let the surgery know as it will help us to offer the appropriate support.

If you have read this and think you may be a carer, please inform the reception when you are next in or call the surgery and ask to speak to Ruth King our Carers lead.

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday 18th June – Practice closure 1pm to 2pm (for emergencies contact the Practice mobile, number on the website via News section)

Thursday 5th September - Protected Learning Session for the workforce, whole practice closure from 3pm (Prescriptions can be collected between 8:30am – 3pm today ONLY)

If you require medical assistance during surgery closures, phone 111 or 999 in the case of an emergency.

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