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**MEETING IN PRIVATE:**

**On Thursday September 14th**

**At: South Somerset District Council Offices, Brympton Way Yeovil  
BA20 2HT**

**NOTES OF MEETING**

**Welcome to those present and receiving of apologies for absence**

Richard Buckley, Chair, welcomed all present

**Present:** PPIH Forum members: Mike Atyeo, Mary Clarke, David Duke-Williams (YDH PPI Group), Simon Griffiths, Maggie Hague Frances Peacey, (South Somerset Disability Forum), Mary van Iwaarden, Samira Stewart, Margaret Twidale.

Also present: Rosemary Hasler (HAP),

**Apologies for Absence:** Graham Baker,

The following urgent items of business were considered by members

**1. Report on meeting of all Somerset forums held on 7<sup>th</sup> September at Langport**

Richard asked Rosemary to summarise the main outcomes from this meeting  
Rosemary reported that

- there will be one Somerset PCT forum consisting of the members of the current 4 PCT forums
- it will be known as the Somerset PPI Forum
- it is proposed that this new forum will meet quarterly
- for issues that are local in nature members will also continue to operate in area sub groups, corresponding to the existing PCT areas,
- there will be 4 Vice Chairs, one from each area.
- the hospital forums and the Somerset Partnership forum will continue as separate entities
- members decided that the Chair of the new forum will be elected from amongst the existing Chairs
- there will be a postal ballot of all members of existing PCT forums to elect the Chair. The result of the ballot will be announced at the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Glynn Meredith has indicated that he does not wish to be Chair. Carole Hounsell and Maureen Lloyd Williams have already indicated that they are willing to stand. Richard said that although he is not willing to be the Chair of the area group, he would put his name forward to be Chair of the Somerset Committee.
- Members are asked to nominate three workplan items to be included on the new Somerset PPI Forum workplan

## **2. Chard Hospital opening**

Margaret Twidale reported that the hospital is much improved in appearance , with the impression being open, airy and pleasant. /she commented on how well staff had coped with the upheaval caused by the necessary works. Colin Cant mentioned that if any groups would like to see around the new facilities, this could be arranged by contacting the Matron

## **3. South Somerset PCT Board**

Richard paid tribute to the PCT's work over the past 4 years, and especially to their commitment to openness and public involvement. In particular, their receptiveness to scrutiny by the forum was commended.

It has been agreed that at the PCT AGM which follows this meeting, the Forum will commend the PCT, and will especially thank Keith Whittaker for all his help to us.

Refurbishment of community hospitals – some of the planned works will take longer than anticipated, because they will now need to seek the necessary permissions and finance from the reconfigured Strategic Health Authority. This applies to both South Petherton and Verington. Chard has been refurbished, and the first phase of the Crewkerne refurbishment is completed.

Report on 'Being Open' –this addresses what should happen when mistakes are made. The goal is to have openness and transparency. Thanks are due to Mary and Frances who reviewed the draft of this report on behalf of the Forum, and suggested some changes.

Richard suggested that the Somerset PPI Forum encourage the new PCT to adopt this policy, and to monitor its application in the future.

## **4. Dental practice**

Simon Griffiths said that he is concerned about the PCT's proposed site for retinal screening for diabetic patients, on grounds of poor public transport access, and limited parking availability. It was proposed by Mary Clarke and seconded by Simon Griffiths that a letter be sent to the PCT (and copied to YDH) raising these concerns and asking for a response.

## **5. Dental practice**

Colin Cant read extracts from a letter that has been sent to the Pensioners Forum about dental services in Chard.

Work is about to start, but will not be ready until March 2007. During November 2007the PCT will work with Community Dental Services Ltd. To develop information packs for patients.

As the Pensioners Forum already has this issue under review, it was decided that we ask them to keep this Forum updated.

## **6. Meeting to be attended**

OSC - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Richard will attend  
YDH Foundation Trust AGM, will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> September