



THE APPLES MEDICAL CENTRE

Patient Participation Group *Note from the Chair*

The Apples Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a voluntary group, established by patients of The Apples Medical Practice as a link with the clinicians and staff to represent the interests of all patients, it also assists with the provision of information to patients from the Practice. Visit the website <https://www.sherborneapples.co.uk/Home> for full information.

The NHS has from 1st July 2022 introduced an Integrated Care Board (ICB) - in Dorset known as NHS Dorset, it will undertake the statutory responsibilities of the clinical commissioning group (CCG) and will also be responsible for planning to meet the health care needs of people and communities in Dorset, and work more closely together across the NHS, local authorities, and many others in what is called the Dorset integrated care system

That also means our Primary Care Network i.e. PCN, (i.e. Apples, Grove and Yetminster surgeries) will work together with Sherborne Town Council, Dorset Council, and all relevant community groups. We are also joining the Patient Groups together as a PCN. PPG group for this area (i.e. the 3 surgeries above).

Dr Chris Minton is now Clinical Director of the PCN. Your clinical staff and their support work very hard to ensure patients have the best they can offer, within the confines of the NHS guidance.

As patients we now want to understand and know The Apples Medical Centre daily issue's, and as patients we may be able to help. The poor NHS Doctor/Surgery Contract 2022/2023 was a good example. This stipulates an extension of surgery working hours Monday to Friday to 8 pm each day, and a full Saturday service. We know from the PCN that all our 3 surgeries, are hugely overworked. Additional doctors and nurses are almost nonexistent, so the NHS contract proposals appear unworkable – that may mean we lose our existing clinical staff. A ICB survey showed the problem and more hard work is being carried out to mitigate these serious issues. That operates from the 1st October 2022. As patients we can help the surgery if we can understand the issues better. We are working on that matter.

We will communicate through the Newsletters and Apples web site. We have an opportunity to make a difference, you could as well by joining us, drop a line to me or Philippa Cannings (Practice Manager)

In the meantime, stay healthy

Bruce Duncan, PPG Chair

Primary Care Network:

Summary of Primary Care Network - The three practices (The Apples, The Grove and Yetminster Health Centre) are Sherborne Primary Care Network – New roles within the PCN include:

- Social Prescribers (Non-clinical requirements)
- Mental Health workers
- Frailty Nursing team
- Clinical Pharmacist
- Pharmacy Technician
- Sarah Webster – PCN Co-ordinator

Patients may be signposted to one of the above clinicians/social prescribers

All three surgeries within the PCN to work collaboratively, integrated care across the PCN, to ensure all common interests can be delivered.

CPCS (Community Pharmacist Consultation Service):

this is a new initiative where a patient can be referred for minor issues such as insect bites/hay fever/colds etc. to a local chemist. In Sherborne this will be the Abbey Pharmacy.

Social Prescribers and Health Champions:

People often have underlying social reasons for visiting their GP. They might be lonely or isolated, worrying about money or housing, struggling to find information about how to care for a friend or relative, suffering from ongoing health conditions and not knowing where to turn. These are all things a SP Link Worker can help with, by spending more time with the patient than a GP can, and identifying their problems, and directing people to solutions. We have a wide range of knowledge about what's going on in the local area, and if we can't answer your question, we can find someone who does.

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

Facebook: [The Apples Medical Centre](#)

Instagram: [sherborneapples](#)

We also support local volunteer efforts with our Health Champions, who are currently running local Wellbeing Walks, a Chatty Café, the Military Veteran Support Group, and the Cancer Support Group. We're always keen to hear from anyone who might like to be involved with these, or anyone who would like to set up a new group.

Practice Update

Annual Flu Vaccines

Flu season is nearly upon us again, the surgery is planning two Flu Clinics to be held at the Digby Hall, nr the Library, following dates:

65yrs plus Friday 30th September 8.30am to 12.30pm

Vulnerable Patients Friday 11th November 8.30am to 12.30pm

We will also be holding catch up clinics in the surgery – more information to follow

Eligible Patients will be invited via a link that we will send to your mobile phones (please make sure that we have your correct mobile number and inform the surgery if you share your mobile with your partner etc.) click on the link to book your appointment.

If you do not have a mobile number recorded, we will contact you via a phone call



Cake Stall:

The PPG and Philippa Cannings (Practice Manager) will be holding a cake stall at The Apples on Thursday 15th September to raise funds for Philippa who is running the London Marathon for the charity Meningitis and Septicaemia. If you would like to bake a cake to sell, please contact Philippa at the surgery. And do come along to buy. If you would like to donate to Philippa's charity please go to <https://tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/Philippa-cannings>

Workforce:

It is exciting news that we have recruited Sarah Spencer as a Nurse Practitioner. Sarah will join the team from November 2022 and will be available for urgent/on-the-day care. A change in how the GPs work will be announced shortly.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Hannah Adams (Dispenser) as she is relocating. We all wish her well for the future. We have, however, recruited Claire Carter who is a qualified Dispenser. She will be joining the team in mid-September.

Dispensary:

Prescription line: the surgery now has a new option for ordering your prescription. Please press option 3 when phoning. Opening times for the prescription line haven't changed: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9.30 to 11.30 am.

GP Patient Survey:

GP Patient Survey results are now out: The Apples Medical Centre did very well, please click the link to view: <https://www.gp-patient.co.uk/>



We are looking for a keen gardener someone who is willing to plant the surgery's hanging baskets/flowerpots, if anyone is interested please contact the surgery

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 1st September 2022 Protected Learning CLOSED from 3:30 – 6:30pm
(Prescriptions can be collected between 8:30am – 3pm today ONLY)

Thursday 13th October 2022 Protected Learning CLOSED from 3:30 – 6:30pm
(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

From The Apples Medical Centre

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