**Charles Road Surgery**

**PPG Zoom Meeting (ID- 436 273 2202) - 08.10.2020**

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the structure of the PPG meeting was changed. The meeting was going to be held virtually via Zoom Meetings.

All PPG members were sent a letter invite attached with instructions on how to log onto zoom meetings with the meeting ID (436 273 2202) and password.

**Zoom Attendees**

Dr Amir Zafar

Dr Arif Zafar

Dr Sangita Sarkar

Dr Saadia Dhedhi

Dr Mina Farag

Ms Ayesha Mirza

Ms Sameenah Bi

Mr Kehar Matharu

Mr Steven Raindi

**Apologies**

Mr Asghar Mirza

Ms Sughra Bibi

Mrs Faiza Harhara

Mr Shafiq Zaman

Mr Constanine Deans

Ms Ina Pryce

Mrs Nasim Kiani

Mr Asim Maqsood

Miss Cynthia White

Mr Taj Gul

1. **Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves virtually on Zoom Meetings with Dr Amir as the host of the meeting.

Dr Amir formally introduced our two Registrars – Dr Saadia Dhedhi and Dr Mina Farag.

1. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Last PPG meeting was a Zoom meeting – held on 08.10.2020.

Covid-19 was discussed and the effects of Covid-19 and also the running of the Practice during the pandemic.

Dr Amir questioned Steven Raindi on how he felt in the last six months regarding access to appointments from the surgery and having his medical needs met.

Steven responded – He felt it went smoothly considering we are not use to this environment. He usually orders his medications online with no problems. Getting through to the surgery via telephone, he mentioned the service was there and delivered. He had his vaccination at Khattak Memorial Surgery and was able to get in touch with the surgery. Overall a good experience.

He felt that now the vaccinations are being rolled out, he is hoping everything will normalise by summer 2021.

Dr Amir stated that one of the important priorities we have going into Covid -19 is to make sure people could access the Practice.

Dr Amir also wanted to relay why we did not do the Covid-19 vaccinations at Charles Road Surgery: Pfizer vaccine was first vaccine to become available, there were very specific requirements with this vaccine e.g. temperature, storage etc. also part of the rolling out of the Covid-19 vaccinations was getting practices to work together in small groups and PCN’s.

Charles Road surgery is part of the Small Heath PCN, whereby we work in corporations with six other practices to deliver better services for our patients.

The Khattak Memorial Surgery is a newer surgery in terms of the building and space, more practical to set up this Practice for the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccinations. If the vaccinations become a regular thing where we will need to get patients vaccinated yearly or so, then we will be moving to a position where we will be giving vaccinations at our Practice just like the flu vaccines, which will be more practical for our patients.

Steven Raindi – Will there be a booster vaccinations for Covid-19?

Dr Amir Zafar – There is a booster in the process which has not been fully improved yet and are being discussed at the moment. Might be available Sept/Oct? Unsure of any protocols with Covid-19 and flu vaccines.

Dr Amir questioned Kehar Matharu – how he felt in the last six months with the level of service he received from our Practice. He responded: He only spoke to the reception team once and had no problems at all and didn’t have any issues in the last six months so did not need to contact surgery.

1. **COVID-19 Infection rates**

Dr Amir – Covid infection rates are going down, last rates seen for Birmingham was in the range of 70 cases per 100.000 comparing it to when there were thousands of cases per 100.000 at the peak of the first and second wave of Covid-19.

As rates are going down, we see fewer positive cases now. The falling rates are reflecting while we were in lockdown.

From Monday, lockdown will be eased. The shielded patients, no longer need to shield, people are also allowed to meet in gardens and up to six people outdoors. As lockdown has eased, due to pleasant weathers, thousands of people have congregated in parks etc. We will see what happens in the next few weeks with regards to the Covid-19 rates as lockdown has eased.

Dr Arif Zafar – rates are definitely falling but will need to be aware of that falling has slowed down in Birmingham as last week, there had been a 1% reduction of rates as oppose to a 30% reduction in Solihull. Still need to take precautions with social distancing etc.

Steven Raindi – Concerned about the Easter Bank Holidays as schools closed - people coming out due to weather, which will lead to more social mixing etc., this might effect the Covid-19 rates.

Dr Arif stated there is always a risk when lockdown eases.

Kehar Matharu – wanted advice, if people have had their second dose of the Covid-19 vaccination, do they still need to wear a mask? And take precautions?

Dr Amir response – Most of the vaccination research and results show that both the Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccinations are effective in stopping people becoming very ill. However research is unclear about how far the vaccinations stops people from transmitting Covid-19. People who are vaccinated maybe potentially carry the Covid-19 infection and might transmit to other, so it is best to take precautions.

Dr Amir also advised if these messages discussed in the meeting could be reached out to the local Communities and direct them to the Birmingham City Council website, where further information can be obtained.

Important information to put out to the Communities as clinicians is that we still need to follow the rules, shouldn’t be congregating in our homes and up to six people can meet outdoors. Also for our patient group – foreign travel is not allowed, can’t travel to India or Pakistan or anywhere else, unless a specific reason Bereavement etc, if rules are not followed, there is a £5000 fine.

1. **COVID-19 Vaccination rates**

Dr Arif will summarise how roll out of the vaccinations are going in our area.

The vaccinations did have a rocky start as a lot of people in our Community were not keen on having the vaccination, took time and convincing them. Due to the staff’s hard work we managed to call the over 70’s and 75’s directly by personally speaking to them, so our uptake are much higher than the local regions, however there are some people who will not be convinced and will not have the vaccination.

Patients are now calling up the surgery wanting the vaccination if they haven’t heard from us.

We are confident that now people are use to the vaccination and they understand it and that no one has had a major reaction from it, there is more confidence within the community.

We do have a high uptake on the vaccinations in the high risk groups, despite people’s reasons for not having the vaccine.

Staff members worked very hard going through the cohort lists which were organised in groups numerous of times trying to encourage patients to take the vaccination and also GP’s have personally called patients to advice the same.

Other organisations such as Millennium point and Green Lane Mosque have taken some large groups by becoming vaccination centres which is beneficial for the local Communities

Steven Raindi questioned – Is there a back log within the elderly group for the first dose? And secondly how soon can you get the second dose?

Dr Arif responded – There isn’t a back log as such- patients have been called a number of times by the practice who have not had their first vaccine, there are some who have declined and some who are thinking about it and will contact the surgery.

There is meant to be about twelve weeks between the two vaccinations not any sooner according to the government guidelines.

Dr Amir Zafar – We need to be cautious as there are a lot of stories and conspiracies on social media regarding the vaccination and how it effects people and so forth, which can have an effect on people who don’t want the vaccine.

Despite the fact, we are doing well overall. As a practice we might be doing better than neighbouring practices around us, we are still in the inner city areas doing worse than the prosperous areas.

Charles Road Surgery worked with CCG and NHS England and a Pharmacy group called Masters Pharmacy to help set up Green Lane Mosque, which has been recently set up for easy accessibility for our local Community and increase the vaccination rates.

1. **Surgery opening and access**

At the moment, we will not be opening the doors to the surgery anytime soon, maybe at least until the end on June 2021. As Covid-19 infection is still around and don’t want to put patients and staff at risk. We will still need to monitor patients who come into the surgery as patients temperature are being checked at the doors.

Both Kehar and Steven felt this is a wise thing to do to keep the doors closed for the moment for the safety of staff and patients.

Dr Amir wanted to reiterate that with the surgery doors being closed, it does not mean that the surgery services are closed.

**6 Appointments system**

We are now seeing more patients in the surgery, we did have two clinical rooms designated for seeing patients, and gradually we are getting to a situation where patients will be seen in the GP’s consulting rooms, this is the case when patients are invited in by the GP for a face to face consultation. GP’s will be fully equipped with PPI protection.

Patients are also encouraged to wear face masks and only bring another person if any communications issues to minimise the risks.

Staff members also undergo Covid-19 testing’s twice per week by using the lateral flow testing kits, which is monitored and recorded.

Telephone triages and video consultations will still be continuing and GP’s will arrange any face to face with patients if necessary.

All nurses and HCA appointments will be face to face.

**7 Training**

Dr Arif – Lead tutor for Aston University. Currently tutoring Year 1 & 2 Aston University students. Learning has been done virtually with patients. Hoping next year students will have a more face to face training, all dependant on the government guidelines

Dr Arif formally thanked Mr Raindi and Mr Matharu for helping the training of the Aston students by giving their patient experiences and history.

**8. Registrars**

We are a training practice and our current trainee GP’s are:

Dr Saadia Dhedhi

Dr Mina Farag.

Many GP’s have been trained by Charles Road Surgery and we are grateful to our Registrars.

**9. Next meeting date**

The next provisional meeting date would be 30th September 2021.

Thank you to Mr Kehar Matharu and Steven Raindi for joining us on our online Zoom meeting.