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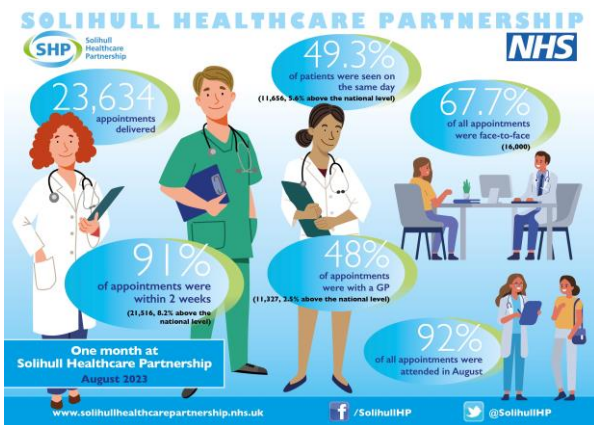
Health Lines

Issue 28

October 2023

Your monthly patient bulletin from SHP Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Patient Appointment Data August 2023



Vaccination Clinics

Flu Vaccine Clinics are being held at surgeries as in previous years, with clinics held in September and more being held throughout October.

Invitations have been sent to eligible patients to book their appointment at one of the October clinics, with some selected dates/times for walk-in clinics for those at risk, aged 18-64 years old, also available throughout October. First walk in clinics for flu vaccine

The autumn COVID-19 booster vaccines are also being delivered, based on government guidelines. All eligible patients have been contacted and invited for their vaccines, so please do not call the practice.

On behalf of patients and the PPG, many thanks to all staff for being relentless in their mission to vaccinate and to the twenty five PPG volunteers to did their best to assist, direct and, on some occasions, entertain!

Message in a Bottle (MiaB)

You may have noticed in our surgeries some little emergency information bottles known as 'Message in a Bottle'. This is a simple idea designed to keep emergency personal and medical information on a standard form and in a common location - a fridge. This national scheme is run and funded by Lion Clubs with input from the NHS, Police and Search and Rescue.

If a member of the emergency services is called to your home, they will see a green sticker on the inside of the front door and another on the fridge door where the bottle is kept. In the bottle is a form giving information about medical conditions, medication taken and any allergies avoiding delays in giving the correct treatment. It also gives contact details of relative/friend and carer ensuring they are informed quickly. This is particularly beneficial for vulnerable patients with long term conditions, whether they live alone or not.

Pick up your Message in a Bottle today from any of the surgery sites.

COME & JOIN YOUR PPG

If you want to be involved in SHP development and service delivery, please **complete the form available in the PPG section of SHP web site or email shp.ppg@nhs.net** for further information.

The next PPG **Committee meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday 19th October 2023** at **Monkspath Surgery** 6.30pm – 7.45pm

The next PPG members' **meeting** will be held at on **26th October 2023 - 6.00pm to 7:30pm** At **Monkspath Surgery and on-line (Hybrid)** Further details to follow via the PPG email.

SHP Carer Event Success

Across the UK, 5.7 million people provide unpaid care and support to a family member, friend or neighbour who is disabled, has an illness or long-term condition, or who needs extra helps as they grow older.

SHP know, because patients tell them, that caring for someone can be an enormously rewarding role, but it can also bring with it challenges physically, mentally and emotionally. That is why SHP organised the carers event on Saturday 30th September, to provide an opportunity for carers and patients to meet with members of the SHP team and local organisations to provide support, advice and information. There was also the opportunity for carers to have a simple healthcare check and their flu vaccine.

The PPG were delighted to support this first SHP event for carers, working with local services for the benefit of patients and families in addition to reconnecting with carers after the pandemic period where perhaps links and communications had ceased or even disappeared.

The day was a huge success on many levels:

For carers and patients who were able to:

- Register/re-register as carers if they weren't already;
- Take advantage of flu vaccines and healthcare checks;
- Access local services and organisations that were pertinent to their role and needs;
- Meet and chat with key members of the SHP team face to face.

For SHP who could:

- Connect with carers face to face to discuss ways they could support them, and improve carer and patient experiences
- Build relationships and work with local services/organisations to support carers

For local services/organisations who could;

- Actively support carer needs and signpost them to support and guidance on the day and in the future;
- Connect to each other; who could raise awareness for carers of local support and reassure carers that they are not alone.

For the PPG who could;

- Be seen as integral to the smooth running of the event partners;
- Demonstrate their commitment to patients and staff through volunteering roles;
- Meet local organisations and services for their own understanding of what's out there.

The event was formally opened by Cllr Karen Grinsell and was held from 10am to 2pm, during which time over two hundred people were welcomed.

Among the many services/agencies available were Healthwatch Solihull who reported that the event was the best supported and informative of any they had attended for some time.

Thanks go to all Carers, SHP team, services, PPG volunteers and the Christadelphian Hall members for their great teamwork and commitment.



Caption: PPG Volunteers helped during the day (r to l Gill, Greta, Archana and Anne)