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**Patient Participation Group (PPG) – an Invitation to Join**

**Background**

The Corner Surgery is a GP Practice in the Marshside district of Southport, which has been rated Good by the Care Quality Commission. The Practice was established in 1993 by Dr Nora Moriarty, who served the Churchtown community for over twenty years. In 2006, the Practice moved into the purpose-built premise it shares with The Marshside Surgery.

With a current list size of around 4500 patients, it is a small Practice and prides itself on offering personal medical care through a high quality & friendly service. It also fulfils a vital role as an accredited training Practice in partnership with Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals and the University of Liverpool.

The Practice team comprises: two GP partners, three regular sessional GPs, two resident doctors, two advanced nurse practitioners (ANP’s), two clinical pharmacists, a practice nurse, a healthcare assistant and a GP assistant. They are supported by a team of administrative staff under a Practice Manager, involved in the complex work of ensuring the Practice runs smoothly.

**Why Have a PPG?**

In compliance NHS regulations, in 2015, the Practice quickly established a PPG, which has striven to:

* **Bridge the gap** between patients & health care providers to enhance the delivery of primary health care.
* **Provide a platform for patients** to voice their opinions and contribute (and influence) the development of services.
* **Facilitate patient engagement** with the Practice and thus improve health care.
* **Provide a sounding board for the practice** to share their plans for changes before implementation.

**The Wider Picture**

Our Practice is a member of Southport and Formby Primary Care Network (PCN), which comprises fourteen GP Practices. Occasionally, the PCN puts on a PPG event and all local patients are invited. These events give information about services the PCN provides across its member Practices and allow patients to help influence the development of the PCN.

**How is this Achieved?**

Your PPG consists of some twelve patient members with a typical attendance of eight to ten. In addition, a GP Partner and a senior member of the administrative team at the practice attends the meeting.

The Chairperson is a patient & we have a Secretary to take minutes of our meetings. Together we work through an Agenda circulated in advance, which generally consists of the Matters Arising from the previous meeting, a report from the GP Partner, & specific items that individual members would like discussed.

Every voice is welcomed & the discussion is amicable; serious but not hostile. Matters of personal or family treatment are discouraged. Everyone is open-minded and members do not attend with a ‘hidden agenda’.

Up to four Meetings are held each year and each rarely last more than two hours. They are held in a comfortable room within the Surgery invariably on Wednesday afternoon beginning at 13.30.

**Are You Interested?**

We warmly welcome patients who feel they can contribute to our constant search for improvement & can commit to a degree of consistency in attendance.

Should you be interested, please speak to our Practice reception staff to enquire about details of the next meeting.

*Howard Poole (Chair) on behalf of The Corner Surgery PPG*