

Rehan Symonds attended the meeting to update the group on the GP development projects.

He indicated that there was a need for the 10 practices in the east locality to work together – one reason was to attract new GPs. The areas for development

1. More efficiency in the delivery of health care – eg beefing up Dermatology services within Primary Care – Derriford Consultants will be involved.

2. Resilience of general practices. In 10 years there will 2x as many 85 year olds as now – with increasing complexity of care. No. of GPs is going down. New intake of medical students do not want to be GPs.

3. Integrate services into the community/practices – iron out inefficiencies. Diff. professional groups work in silos – District Nurses in one/GPs in another.

So how to co-ordinate this

Idea - - Creation of Community Nursing Hub – creating support closer to people homes.

This could reduce pressure and workload on each silo. District nurses will still visit homes but some patients may be able to visit their local hub rather than be visited.

For those that cannot get to the hub but are still mobile – then transport could be organised. By basing the services on the hub, then people get out of their homes, they could meet more people at the hub – more social interaction. Meaning the patients that really do need home visits are able to be given more time. (There are example of Leg ulcer clubs – where patients go to a central location for their ulcers to be dressed – it is more efficient than a nurse going round to individual homes – the patients can have a cup of tea and chat – social interaction and possibly learn how others cope.)

The hub would provide a range of skills available – all in one place.

(This is just an idea!!!)

These hubs could be set up in "clusters of GP surgeries" – ie Looe/Liskeard; Rame/ Saltash/St Germans; etc.

The CFT (Community Foundation Trust) delivering community nursing are very interested in this idea and would be responsible for the community aspect.

There were questions about – costs of transport; How are going to bring together this team – with so many different professionals involved – eg self employed GP, nurses employed by the CFT, etc.

This has to be "cost neutral" – many members felt that this was probably difficult to achieve with no extra costs.

Tamar Valley PPG – at the minute this is no longer in existence but talks are being held about re-establishing of the group. Fred Shotton who is the Umbrella rep will be moving away from the area. At the minute we have no rep from Tamar Valley.

St Barnabas Hospital, Saltash – losing its Minor Injuries Unit and closing wards. Staff temporarily transferred to Liskeard Hospital.