PPG meeting at Old Henry St Medical Centre on Monday 30 October 2023

Present on behalf of patients; Susan Kavanagh, Barry Sharp, Lillian Sharp, Michael Pollard and Elizabeth Senior.

Present on behalf of practice Charlotte Chapman and Jane Foster known

Apologies Eileen Brunt and Julie Ellis

Today we had Bob Tower come to speak to us about the Charity; “Making Spaces”, which for 40 years has been as the schizophrenia Society. The charity has 3 residences in the wigan borough which are Waterhouse Court, Douglas Court and Brook Street. All supported living accommodation which caters for sufferers and their carers . The charity also provides a “dementia café,” which gives respite to both with crafts sessions etc. There is no funding so relies on donations and grants the charity is a life line to both patients and carers. BS thanked him for coming and for his informative talk.

ES stated that she is a care for her daughter and had experienced significant gaps in the NHS system. That we need to be more aware of the short comings, also language could be a barrier. So, we have decided to name our project for our PPG, calling it “filling the Gaps”. We hope to research this topic and make it more understandable to all.

Barry was concerned about the “Ask my GP” service not being available on a Wednesday. CC explained that the surgery is still open, that we can phone through to the receptionist if any problems occur that won’t wait until Thursday. GPs still see patients on an urgent basis but due to the volume of patients using the Ask my GP app, the Doctors are needing the time to catch up.

Vaccinations; It was noted that the Flu inoculation’s are available from the surgery not as previously stated. But Covid Vaccinations were not. We need to clarify why there are no locations in the immediate area. If you phone the 119 number the pharmacies in Leigh are not listed including the pharmacy at Leigh Infirmary. Patients are requested to travel outside the area to obtain a Covid Jab. This is not acceptable.

Next meeting Monday 18th December at 10am.