**VICTORIA CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

**PATIENT FORUM HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER**

**HEADLINES**

1. The Forum attracted ten local patient and other local agency representatives.
2. For those Practices not represented further efforts would be made to encourage

The setting up of Practice Patient Participation Groups (JM)

3)Dr Jonathan Munday , Chair of the VCCG took the group through the current timetable towards full Clinical Commissioning Group status in 2013, the stage the VCCG was at and importantly a critical decision on the size of patient groupings to be decided on November 24th by The Government. The VCCG covers around 50,000 patients in 8 GP Practices in the geographically compact, distinct and manageable Pimlico and Victoria area. It is feared that a financial viability threshold of over 200,000 patients may be imposed.

If that were to be the case then a Plan B of exploring a federated structure with the like minded Central London Health CCG ,covering areas up to Maida Vale and with circa 150, 000 patients would be the most likely course of action.

4) Dr Munday took the group in some depth through the characteristics of our area and shared the Strategic Commissioning Intentions of the VCCG recently presented to the Inner North West London NHS Executive (précis to be attached to the Full Notes when ready)

5) Delegated Authorities progress

A brief description of the next phase of applying for and achieving Medium and High Level Delegated Authorities was given( application will be made early in the New Year) The Low Level Authority ( and the budget which accompanied them) had already been achieved

6) The Interoperabilty Project;

On a very local level the VCCG was set to connect up the records of Patients with all the local Health Professionals to significantly improve the information flows on Patients ; an area which most Patients attending local hospitals or dealing with Consultants and others the most infuriating. Sharing real time information would significantly improve the treatment of Patients ( this was fully supported by the Forum as many personal examples of uncoordinated information were recalled)

To safeguard however Patient information confidentiality each Practice would be shortly writing to Patients explaining the Project and seeking (by opt out) their permission

7) KEY VIEWS AND ACTIONS

The Forum gave support to the establishment of the locally and patient focussed VCCG , approved the general direction of the Commissioning Intentions especially the retention of and enhancement of the services from the South Westminster Centre for Health and if necessary the seeking of a Federated relationship with CLH whilst maintaining as much as possible the distinctive nature of Patient representation and influence of the Area in any arrangement.

ACTION

It was agreed that Forum Members would write to the MP Mark Field in the House of Commons urgently to express support for the retention of the VCCG as a going concern urging him to advocate that to the Secretary of State. Jock Meikle would also write on behalf of the Patient Forum (also to Mr Lansley)

THE BONES OF A LETTER COULD BE

I am a member of the Patient Forum of the VCCG and fully endorse its Strategic Intentions

I understand there is an imminent decision on the patient number threshold to be taken by the Secretary of State for Health

Please intervene on my behalf and of the Patients in my Surgery whom I represent and request the Secretary of State to allow different sizes of Patient numbers to exist.

Pimlico and Victoria is a compact, distinctive area with just over 50 000 patients, the GPS have been working together very well and have been in the lead nationally in forming our local CCG

Please act quickly

I will write similarly Jock Meikle Chair of the Patient Forum

NEXT MEETING

It will beheld at 10 am on Friday December 9th at the Victoria Medical Centre

Update on progress and discussion on role , structure and communication processes of the Forum will be the main Agenda items