Monkspath PPG Newsletter Oct 2017

In line with the majority view, on merging the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), expressed at the meeting on 10th August we sent a letter supporting Option 1, on behalf of our PPG, to the CONSULTATION coordinators. We now know that the decision has gone the way of Option 3, which you may recall was a total unification of all three CCGs – CrossCity, South & Central and Solihull - to form a single entity called ‘BSol CCG’.

In the independent Review, commissioned by the NHS, of all the responses submitted: written, on-line and verbal at the meetings across all the areas, our PPG was the only one to be singled out and specific extracts given.

There are lots of stats about how everyone felt, but the overall summation was that the majority wanted Option 3. Some cynics might question whether the number of votes that appeared to come from CrossCity (by far the largest constituency of the three) swamped the much smaller Solihull and that CrossCity has the least to lose by such a merger. Be that as it may, transitional arrangements to amalgamate all the various functions and departments of Solihull CCG are now being incorporated into the new BSol regime. Whilst it is not confirmed many seem to expect that our CCG’s base at Friars Gate will disappear.

On Tuesday 10th Oct we have an interesting chance to hear about the vexed and much debated issue of Care in the Community. Teresa Scragg and Leslie Brookes – both of whom work in the Local Authority Care sector – will outline what sorts of care are available (Residential/Domiciliary and Medical/Social) and the process and financial constraints to be faced when applying. So whether you are thinking about your own/your partner’s approaching needs in this context, or you have elderly parents or relations for whom you may feel a responsibility, this may be a good opportunity to formulate/refine your plans. The meeting will be at the surgery at 7.00pm.

The December meeting sound like an opportunity to ask all those questions that we were denied the chance to express, when Mark Rogers had to cancel at the very last minute at our June meeting on the STP. We voted then to invite one of our MPs, Julian Knight and/or Caroline Spellman, to explain where they stood and what the Government were going to do to resolve the issues of expanding demand with insufficient extra funding.

We are pleased to announce that Julian Knight has accepted our invitation. This promises to be a lively event and it will be a great opportunity to make your worries/concerns known. However to accommodate his Parliamentary needs we are likely to move the date to a Friday (probably the 8th Dec) and, anticipating a bigger audience, we are looking at moving to the school hall adjacent to the surgery car parking area. So please check on our web site [www.monkspathppg.org](http://www.monkspathppg.org). It would be most helpful, if you think you are likely to come, to drop us an email monkspathppg@hotmail.com or leave a note at our surgery’s Reception desk.

Alistair McLachlan