

Minutes of the Cross Party Group on Diabetes

Tuesday 4 March 2014

Attendees

Darren Millar AM (Chair)
Paul Coker (Input Patient Advocacy)
Nicola Davies-Job (RCN)
Rhian Shaw (Sanofi)
John Griffiths (Lay Member)
Penny Griffiths (Abbott Diabetes Care)
Jason Harding (Diabetes UK Cymru)
Dai Williams (Diabetes UK Cymru)
Sara Moran (Diabetes UK Cymru)
Robert Wright (Lay Member)
Ros Meek (Medtronic)
David Chapman (Representing Medtronic)
Alex Still (Office of Jeff Cuthbert AM)
Chris Williams (Novo Nordisk)
Helen Cunningham (Office of Jenny Rathbone AM)
Mirriam Dupree (Office of Jenny Rathbone AM)

Apologies

Jenny Rathbone AM
David Melding AM
Bethan Jenkins AM
Simon Thomas AM
Lowri Griffiths (Stroke Association)
Jonathan Hudson (Astrazeneca)
Dr Lindsay George
Steve Bain (Swansea University)
Pippa Ford (CSP)
Lesley Jordan (Input Patient Advocacy)
Scott Cawley (All Wales Podiatry)
Wendy Gane (Diabetes Peer Support)
Yvonne Johns (Diabetes North Wales Reference Groups)
C Hugh Thomas (Community Pharmacy Wales)

The cross party group would like to thank the following organisations for their support:



Introductions

Darren Millar AM welcomed attendees to the eighth meeting of the group in the fourth Assembly. Members introduced themselves and their organisations. He informed the group that Jenny Rathbone AM was attending the European Diabetes Leadership Forum and will report back to the group at the next meeting.

1. Annual General Meeting – Election of Officers

The group nominated and elected Jenny Rathbone AM as Chair and Helen Cunningham as Secretary. There were no other nominations.

2. Minutes and matters arising

The group agreed the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Patient reference groups - Robert Wright informed the group that there had been no meeting of the Powys patient reference group since June. The Local Health Board has now produced their delivery plan but it includes no reference to patient reference groups. Robert commented that he believes patient input in Powys is non-existent.

The chair suggested a letter to Powys LHB to ask how patients can engage with the health board. Agreed by group

Action: CPG to write to Powys LHB

3. Insulin pumps presentation, Paul Coker

Paul Coker made a presentation to the group on access to insulin pumps. Paul outlined the two technologies offered to patients; Smart blood glucose meters and insulin pumps (CSII). A discussion followed. Penny Griffiths pointed out that meters are available for patients but that they are not always smart meters. She added this is a specific meter for a specific type two diabetes i.e. someone who is not producing any insulin.

A discussion took place about staff ratios. Chris Williams pointed out that there is no point training staff if the technology is not available.

Dai Williams talked about Betsi Cadwaladr practices, so that patients have to go to Liverpool to get the service, which works out as more expensive and it would be cheaper to train staff and do it in house.

Paul Coker pointed out that although the number of diabetes patients has gone up, the number of Diabetes Specialist Nurses (DSN) has gone down. Nicola Davies-Job informed the group how difficult it is for nurses to access training, especially training for specialisms. Jason Harding added that there is work currently going on in Welsh Government to review the DSN

The group agreed to write to the Minister for Health and Social Services to ask what are the numbers of DSNs and what is the level of training availability and uptake.

Action: CPG write to the Minister about DSNs

The chair informed the group that the Health and Social Care Committee are doing an enquiry to access to medical technologies, and suggested the group write to the Chair of the committee outlining its concerns about access to smart meters and pumps.

Action: CPG to write to Chair of Health Committee about access to medical technology

John Griffiths added that the cost of not doing anything should also be considered. The group discussed the societal cost and health economy, including the cost to the economy of people in the workforce who have conditions that aren't managed properly. Ros Meek also informed the group that there was a report by the Work Foundation on the impact of health conditions and use of medical technologies on the health force.

Action: HC to circulate a copy of the Work Foundation report.

4. Sub Group updates

Jason Harding gave an overview of previous workstreams and how they operated and gave context to the new ones. The Chair commented that as a number of apologies had been received, other members of the group not at the meeting should be given the opportunity to join a sub group they have a particular interest in. It was agreed that Dai Williams will take the lead on insulin pumps. Paul Coker and Lesley Jordan will also be members. It was agreed that Jenny Rathbone will take the lead on inpatient care. Jason Harding will support. It was agreed that the focus and terms of reference of the sub groups should be set at the inaugural meetings of the sub groups

Action: Members of the CPG to inform sub group leads if they are interested being members of a sub group

Action: Sub group leads to arrange inaugural meetings

5. Diabetes Implementation Group update

Dai Williams informed the group that the All Wales Implementation Group met on 19 December. The group agreed to add some members: to improve links with local authorities; add some expertise in professional education; and to coordinate communications. The group has four priorities; prevention, paediatrics, making the NHS as good as it can be (which includes data & foot care), and education/self-management. The creation of a paediatric network and peer review required Health Boards support which Adam Cairns has now secured.

Dai commented that there is a lack of real engagement by health boards and there are not enough senior level people involved. The group have mandated Adam Cairns to attend the Diabetes Planning and Delivery Groups (DPDGs) across Wales. Dai added that Adam Cairns is a breath of fresh air and is leading well.

Nicola Davies-Job commented that prevention appears in lots of health plans, so health plans should be integrated better. The Chair added that the risk factors are the same across many conditions.

Dai also informed the group that the clinical lead has still not been appointed. The group agreed to write a letter to ask when the lead will be appointed

Action: CPG to write to Adam Cairns to ask what the timetable is for the clinical lead to be appointed.

6. AOB and date of next meeting

Dai informed the group about the BBC Cymru season “Live Longer Wales” and how useful the programme could be for people with diabetes. He suggested the Director of Programmes comes to the next meeting

Action: Dai Williams to contact Director of Programmes at BBC Cymru

The group noted the new rules governing the operation of cross party groups and the paper provided from Jenny Rathbone AM on the Copenhagen roadmap.

Date of next Cross Party Group Meeting is **Tuesday 3 June in Conference Room 21**