Much Wenlock & Cressage Patients’ Voice Summary Minutes: 9 December 2014

The group recently organised its first “Health Fair” which had taken place on Saturday 8th November. It included presentations on diabetes, dementia, using your local GP services, health & fitness and the challenges facing local hospital services. It had resulted in some very positive feedback and some visitors to the fair had been in touch subsequently.

The group’s Facebook site is developing and has been attracting a growing number of followers. Patients can find the site by searching for “Much Wenlock & Cressage Patients Voice” from within Facebook.

The Practice’s Community Care Co-ordinator is leaving the Practice and as the current contract is just for twelve months up to March 2015 it will prove difficult to secure a placement for such a short period. Hannah Thomas is coming into the Practice on a weekly basis to give health advice to those with sedentary lifestyles and she will be working especially with diabetics initially.

The Practice is currently looking for an additional partner but it was noted that such positions are not proving easy to fill at the present time.

Some issues had been raised in the past regarding patients who are recommended to be seen within a set number of weeks for follow-up appointments. GPs in the Practice are now trialling the issue of a card to patients which they can hand to the receptionist to facilitate them getting an appointment within an appropriate timescale. Since October there have also been some difficulties regarding the referral assessment service both at the Practice (due to a staff absence) and also from those being referred to but the Practice is working hard to resolve these issues.

The group has representatives on various local patients’ and medical groups and these reported back on a range of matters including the “Future Fit” initiative (regarding future changes to local hospital services), the “Better Care Fund”, the provision of GP services into the future and the work of other local patient participation groups.