



# Patient Focus

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
LONG BENNINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP



## What is Long Bennington Medical Centre Patient Participation Group?

Long Bennington Medical Centre Patient Participation Group was re-established nearly two years ago.

It provides patient feedback and representation, with the aim of assisting the Surgery to provide a patient-focused, quality service, and of improving the health, wellbeing, and lives of those that the Medical Centre cares for.

We now have an established core group of eleven members made up of patients of the Medical Centre and members of the practice staff. We hold regular monthly meetings which take place on a Wednesday morning at the Medical Centre.

Three members of the Group have completed their Safeguarding training and are DBS compliant, allowing them to support housebound patients in need of a companion and to help reduce isolation by offering home visits.

We have also formed links with other local groups who are able to offer similar help and support to those in need.

To find out more about the work of the Group, or to become involved, please speak to member of the reception team.

## Dr Shauna Longfield Retires

Dr Longfield became a Senior Partner at Long Bennington Medical Centre in February 2017 now after twenty-two years of service

working as a GP Dr Longfield will retire on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Dr Peter Watson and Dr Elizabeth Montague will continue to run the partnership. Dr Alexander Courtier will be joining the practice on 15th August, working on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Dr Longfield will be greatly missed by staff and patients alike. The Patient Participation Group would like to thank her, sincerely, for everything she has done for her patients, to congratulate her on everything she has achieved during her career, and to wish her a long and happy retirement.

A Retirement book is available in the reception area at the Medical Centre for patients to sign to wish Shauna the best, and to express their gratitude for her work over the years.

## Health Kiosk 'Meet and Greet' Sessions

The Medical Centre has a fantastic Health Kiosk, which allows patients to carry out a number of health checks for themselves. The Health Kiosk is in the waiting area, behind some screens which provide privacy.

If you haven't used it before, the Health Kiosk can seem a bit daunting. To help overcome this, members of the Patient Participation Group have been holding 'meet and greet' sessions, to assist patients by showing them how to use the Health Kiosk to take blood pressure and to record other health data.

Further 'meet and greet' dates have now been arranged, and will take place on: Thursday 17th August - 09:30-11:00

Tuesday 22nd August - 14:00-16:00

If you would like to come along, it would help us to make the most of each session if you could contact the Medical Centre on 01400 281220 to pre-book a 10-minute slot. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Wellbeing Walks

Three members of the Patient Participation Group, supported by our local Co-op, have received training as 'walk leaders'. This has enabled us to set up local, monthly 'Wellbeing Walks'. The walks begin and end at the Medical Centre, taking in local destinations and landmarks – as well as coffee and cake, if we can manage it! The walks are variable in length, and cater for those of all abilities, from beginners to experienced hikers. They are a great way to get out into the countryside, and to meet new friends.



So far, the interest and support from the local community for this initiative has been excellent, with greater numbers joining each month. The next Wellbeing Walk will take place on the 20th of September. If you would like to find out more, please refer to the poster in reception or speak to a member of the reception team.