**Northgate Practice Patient’s Group**

**General Notes taken from the Meeting held on 26th March 2019**

**In Attendance: Chair Sylvia Bailey**

**Members present: Dorothy Barrell, Louise Platt, Jo Worton,**

 **Ann Harrison, Roger Corbett, Danny Newey**

**Apologies: Doris Lee, Maureen Nathaniel, Bob Ingram**

**Notetaker: Janet Jukes**

**Visitors: Andrew Hawes – Dr Singal**

* **Sylvia introduced Andrew Hawes from Walsall Carers, whose**

**job is to support unpaid carers in the community. He is going**

**to give the group a presentation about how he helps carers in the Walsall area.**

**Andrew introduced himself and gave a brief outline of his job.**

**Due to all different illnesses he and his team give advice to people in the community, guidance and help to people who sometimes do not know where to turn to and have no knowledge of where to claim benefits, caring for relatives, friends and anything to do with carers and their questions.**

* **SB asked Andrew to give a short talk about Dementia and their carers – his knowledge would be invaluable to the group.**
* **JW asked if there was any long term support for Dementia patients and their carers – the support short term is a 12 week period where the Dementia patients and Carers receive information and help from them to go to their doctors to be diagnosed, then he/she should send them to the Memory Clinic and if they want information on benefits they can be helped.**

**This is one of the most talked about questions. He said they could have Attendance Allowance which would allow them to buy extra provision e.g. clothes, taxis.**

* **Support: Pathways for Life, Dementia cafe Rectory Gardens - 4th Tuesday in each month 2-4pm, Benefits Clinics, Walsall Carers centre, twice a month on Fridays 10-12.**
* **This is just many of the places that will advise Carers.**

 **Andrew finished with saying any help/advice he could give the**

 **group, just get in touch.**

* **SB thanked Andrew.**
* **SB asked Dr Singal some questions regarding Dementia patients at the surgery – Did the practice have any protocol**

**regarding assessing Dementia patients – on each Dementia patients records it is flagged up on screen so that the doctors**

**know the patient may need help when visiting the surgery.**

**He was interested that Jo and Louise are trying to set up some kind of help and support ‘stand’ for carers who care for someone with this illness and at the moment the surgery does have table at the back of the surgery that has books on for the public to take away. They want to increase awareness in the surgery and plan an action week. Dr Singal was ready to assist in any way he could for this to happen and was going to make sure that all doctors were ‘singing from the same hymn sheet’**

**After much discussion, SB thanked Andrew and Dr Singal and went on with any other business.**

* **LP went to the local Patient meeting and as time was short she said that perhaps she could give leaflets out and next meeting she would have more time to tell group what was happening.**

 **Finally, after a very busy meeting SB thanked everyone for**

 **taking part in the group discussion and planned a meeting with Jo and Louise to go further with this plan and SB would email**

 **group members with anything they have discussed.**

 **Next Meeting: Tuesday 18th June 2019 @ 5.0pm**