

**Staff and Patient Testing:** In the last week we have tested more than 700 members of our staff for COVID-19, which now means well over a thousand staff in total. This means staff who are found to be negative can return to work and those who are positive we can continue to support.

In addition to this all new non-elective patients coming in through our emergency department are now being screened and tested and we'll be screening all patients coming into hospital very soon. This will enable us to be very clear as to which patients do have the virus and those who don't.

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### **Practice Report: May 2020**

**New salaried GP:** Dr Kanagasabai joined the practice as a new salaried GP at the beginning of May, working at the practice on a Wednesday and Friday

**Sew4Community:** We would like to thank Sew4Community for their kind donation of scrubs to the practice. This was a very generous and kind thing to do that has helped the clinicians stay safe during these difficult times.

### **IT Patient Applications**

The CCG are funding two IT applications for patients to use that should be live within the next couple of weeks.

- **iPLATO:** This will allow you to book appointments, order prescriptions as well as receive clinical reminders by text from the practice
- **Doctorlink** This will allow you to assess your symptoms, perform a health risk assessment, book an appointment, order repeat prescriptions as well as provide video consultations.

### **Care Navigation Partnership**

If you are feeling isolated, anxious, require family support or experiencing domestic abuse then please phone 0300 303 9988 for help

### **Surgery**

The surgery is open for patients to call for an appointment. No one is allowed into the surgery without an appointment.

You will be triaged by reception to determine your health requirement and a telephone appointment booked with the most appropriate clinician.

If you feel unwell please do contact the surgery as we are here to help.

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## **Billericay Medical Practice Patient Participation Group Newsletter**

### **Edition 35 Summer 2020**

What a different world we live in since our last issue. Many of us are housebound with no end in sight and may be finding it difficult to keep our minds occupied specially if we live on our own. Or if you are a parent with young children you may now be more appreciative of the problems teachers face every day making sure that their pupils be they nursery, primary or stroppy teenagers in secondary schools not only listen but do as they are told when it comes to school work! So we thought this issue might be welcome albeit only available electronically.

As you will read later we did go ahead with our AGM in March rather than postpone it as perceptively I had said, "*things will get worse before they get better!*" I also gave notice to the Practice that we would not be manning our table in the waiting room as I did not think it fair to ask the committee, many of whom are in the 'older' category, to stay there for two hours in a possibly contaminated area. And how right that was.

We wish all our doctors, nurses and receptionists at the staff to stay safe and well and thank them for what they are doing.

Do Keep Safe and Keep Well

*Marion Wilson Chair of the Patients Participation Group*

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### **PPG AGM**

Only a small number of people attended the Patient Participation Group AGM on 11 March 2020 due to the corona virus, although it was held before the 'shut down' precautions. Dr Cockcroft, Dr Lazell and Peter Tyrrell the Practice Manager attended as well as committee members and some PPG members.

A talk was given by Lucy Whittaker from Alpha Vesta on Domestic Abuse - a summary of the talk appears later in the Newsletter.

The PPG Committee were re-elected and their reports accepted.

Dr Cockcroft gave a report on the Practice and answered questions.

## PPG TALK BY LUCY WHITTAKER ON DOMESTIC ABUSE



Lucy Whittaker from Alpha Vesta gave a talk entitled 'Bridging the Gap' on her work with Alpha Vesta, who raise awareness of the important role businesses and organisations can play in the Workplace of tackling Domestic Abuse

She is the founding Director and Lead Trainer and the company was founded by her in 2019. This talk was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Patient Participation Group AGM

Alpha Vesta provide bespoke training in domestic abuse for businesses and organisations who have recognised the need to invest in these services both for a healthier, happier, safer and more productive workplace as well as creating awareness within their communities. It is a preventative rather than reactive approach. Resources need to be directed towards those people that are coming into contact with potential victims and perpetrators of abuse in order to recognise and respond to the early signs of abuse before the full impact or an escalation occurs.

Alpha Vesta have been funded by the PFCC (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex) to run a 6 month pilot project where all of Alpha Vesta's services will be provided free of charge.

To obtain more information you can contact Alpha Vesta by email at [enquiries@alphavesta.com](mailto:enquiries@alphavesta.com) or call them on 01245 791281. There is a fuller report on the talk on the PPG website and you find this by googling Billericay Medical Practice PPG website.

Presentations, awareness sessions and workshops have been transferred to online platforms so that people can be reached during this difficult time and when domestic abuse cases are rising.

The website has a downloadable article on it and anyone can email Alpha Vesta to join an awareness session or workshop to be more aware across their community and in their workplace during the current coronavirus pandemic.

Currently a free one hour awareness session is being run called 'Domestic Abuse and Coronavirus - The Toxic Mix' using the online platform, Zoom. More workshops being launched next week!



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/domestic-abuse-and-coronavirus-the-toxic-mix-tickets-104319845466?aff=erelexpmt>

### **Hospital News** from Ron Capes, Head Lay Governor

Over the coming weeks we will be looking at how we can safely restore some of our services. This includes developing a joint triage system for routine referrals, with our primary health care partners across the system, in order to provide an improved service for our patients.

It's important that we look to build on the changes that our Trust and the wider health sector have brought about in recent weeks, such as enhanced local system working; and new technology-enabled service delivery such as digital and telephone consultations for outpatients. We will keep you updated on our plans.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Our hospitals' PPE supplies remain in a good position. Please be confident that we have enough supplies to keep our staff safe. We also continue to receive donations of PPE from local businesses and we are very grateful for those.