**BURNHAM SURGERY … PATIENT GROUP … ( PPG )**

The Burnham Surgery, Foundry Lane, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex. CM0 8SJ

News from Burnham Surgery Patient Participation Group

If you had a choice, what would you choose? To have improved life for the years you have or more years for just life?

The aim is to have Dengie clinical services to be ‘outstanding’ and provide the healthy life you choose. There are many people living in the Dengie area who do not have a ‘Patient Voice’ about medical difficulties and access to services. Through the networking of the Dengie General Practices there are new services becoming available, firstly focusing on mental health.

Burnham Surgery now have a nurse for mental health and dementia patients and their carers, as well as the Alzheimer’s supporter and Dementia UK support. These services can link into the Dengie DeCaf group. The Links Worker for ‘Live Well’ will see people at the surgery or at home and they offer support with lifestyle changes and improving social inclusion.

 The last medicines amnesty was a great success. Please continue to bring in all your unwanted medicines such as, where you have too many or your prescription has been changed. You can talk with a prescription adviser at the surgery to make sure all your prescription needs are up to date.

However, we still have to face the bad news. The total wasted clinic time was greater in June than May. Doctor and nurses time of 45hrs was wasted by reason of people not attending for their appointments or not cancelling them. On your mobile phone just write one word ‘CANCEL’. New Patients not attending for ’20 minute’ appointments for registration with the surgery, are still the greatest loss of time. Please think of fellow residents who also need appointments.

Life in general practice is changing all the time with additional services and also changes in the use of the clinical facilities available for us all in the Dengie. However, the higher demand for the services sometimes means a longer wait for the same service. From July General Practices will be linking together to help improve the use of available clinical resources. We, the Dengie patients, could help and advise the practices with our ideas as local residents. The more residents who are interested in helping to make a louder local voice with us, the more we will be able to have improved life for our years.

 If you could meet with us once a month or even once a quarter with the Clinical Commissioning Locality Reference Group, your ideas about health care in our area are important to enable using the Health Service resources in the best way for all of us. If you would like to discuss future local health services with us, please tell your doctor’s surgery your email address and that you are willing to receive emails from the Dengie area Patient Participation group. All these will be passed on to either Southminster or Burnham doctors’ surgeries and we will contact you for your ideas and invite you to our discussions.