

**Hardwicke House & SIAM Surgery PPG Annual General Meeting  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Chair report for Patient Partnership Group AGM March 2022 to February 2023**

Good afternoon all,

In the past 12 months there have been amazing highs and some not so high moments. However, it has been a busy year for the group and the practices being stretched in lots of different ways. It was a year of new beginnings as we stepped gingerly out of the pandemic crisis of COVID, only to be faced with another new phenomena called Long COVID which is striking the country hard. Also the PPG with Lesley being the latest victim forcing her to stand back from her role as Press Officer to enable her body to recover and strengthen.

There has been a lot of illness with members needing major surgery that has also limited their involvement and support for the PPG. I also don't think we realised just how much the amazingly successful the Health Awareness Day that gave us such a sense of achievement and Euphoria on the day, would turn out to affect us all, and how much we had drained the reserves after the event.

However, I think all were extremely proud and encouraged by the praise and compliments received, and for what we was achieved by the Health Awareness Day. Showing the people of Sudbury, and especially SIAM and HHGP patients the support, and groups out there available and willing to help them no matter what the crisis, or just help with living. If all that was not enough we are going to do it all again this year, but we are building from a large and solid base with a lot learned and a lot more knowledge of what to do, and what not to do.

So you all should be proud because you earned it, plus there have been major successes by members with opening an amazing connection, and access to the main man who matters in Allied Health, this is brilliant. Also, we have done lots of smaller things that go under the radar but have a benefit to someone whoever that is. That is the magic dust we spread that the work we do is to help, strengthen, make someone feel special or just recognised, we are a force for good and that counts a lot in the world today.

I also am very proud of you as a group and that the merger of SIAM and Hardwicke House has achieved what I hoped it would when I proposed it. Yes, there are things that we struggle with as different practices and because we are all unique individuals, but if we continue to work together hopefully the bond will strengthen and we find was to tolerate each other's whims and fancies as most families do!

So thank you for your support and cooperation of each other which makes life easier for you all, but also for me trying to steer the ship that has a destination but it keeps changing as we learn and experience more of what life is in the PPG, but also nationally become more aware of the vehicle we are hoping to support that provides us the care and wellness we all seek, and the NHS is there to provide with our help.

I hope the next year is another amazing year for our PPG and we have more successes and find solutions for the patients we serve that makes their life better.

Thank you again, for your support and care of myself which I have been very fortunate to have had. So in the words of Buzz Light Year let's go forward to Infinity and beyond, thank you.

Eric Catton.

PPG Chair

SS & HH Patient Partnership Group.

8<sup>th</sup> March 2023