

Hardwicke House & SIAM Surgery PPG Annual General Meeting 16th March 2022

Chair report for Patient Partnership Group AGM March 2021 to March 2022

Good afternoon fellow members of the PPG and can I wish you all a Very Happy Birthday in completing our first year as Hardwicke House & SIAM Surgery PPG, give yourselves a clap. It has been a topsy turvy year for lots of reasons and in the words of Julie Andrews it's been one of :-

"Getting to know you, Getting to know all about you, Getting to like you, Getting to hope you like me! Getting to know you, Putting it my way But nicely, You are precisely My cup of tea!"

I want to thank you all for your support of myself and the PPG, and helping to try and provide the patients of both practices with the support they deserve, and would expect from a Patient Partnership Group. I have to confess that there were times when we did not meet our goals but I hope in the year ahead we can focus on why we exist and make sure the patients are at the centre of our actions and endeavours. Going forward to our 2nd Birthday we have some great adventures to look forward to, not least the Health Awareness Day, which I believe will be an amazing day, and a fabulous opportunity to raise the awareness and showcase the PPG, highlighting its purpose and visibility to patients and the general public. From the encouraging support and enthusiasm shown by others for the event we have a winner so let's get the party started and enjoy it.

March / July: We were still having virtual meetings on Teams but were getting used to it, however, it was a difficult time to make plans or interact with the public due to COVID. During this period we sadly had the news that Sylva Norton had passed away. We welcomed Susan Sills to the PPG which was looked on as a very positive addition her previous being a GP at HHGP, now retired. A sub group was formed to review the PPG Terms of Reference to reflect the merger of the PPG's and a revised Terms of Reference was approved. Plans for a new HHGP were announced and the PPG were invited to attend a meeting with the Developer for the project. The PPG offered to support the Public Consultations planned to be held on Sudbury Market Days through July and was well attended and grateful thanks were given by HHGP and the developer. Also the PPG were invited to support the local radio public awareness programmes with a phone in questions and answers section.

August / October: There was a break through with the COVID restrictions and the PPG were able to hold face to face socially distanced meetings at Sudbury Community Health Centre. We managed thanks to the wizardly skills of Lesley and Lyn to get the Autumn Edition of the PPG newsletter, which was a mammoth edition due to the amount of information available that needed imparting to the patients and general public. Unfortunately we had to inform Stephen Willingham that due to his lack of attendance and contribution to the PPG his membership had to be terminated. This was a difficult decision to take but we needed to make room for other members to join that were more active and supportive. Unfortunately Susan Sills notified us that due to commitments she would have to stand down as a PPG member, she will be sorely missed. The members of the PPG stood up in all their glory to support SIAM and HHGP with their FLU Clinics which were a great success. Plus some COVID vaccination sessions for HHGP which was a good time for members to reconnect with HHGP staff and interact with patients, like pre COVID used to be.

November / February 2022: Normality started to be evidenced with more freedom from COVID restrictions and the ability to enjoy meetings which were slightly more relaxed. The new surgery for HHGP planning permission was approved and the project is now with the WSCCG and NHS England in sorting the finance that will allow the project to get underway, hopefully to plan for the summer this year. The PPG had some good and bad membership news during this period with the arrival of Pat Laithwaite and Jill Richardson both SIAM Surgery patients boosting the numbers representing SIAM, both are great additions to the membership and we look forward to working with them. Unfortunately Lyn Gray has had to step down from membership due to personal reasons, and we thank Lyn for her support and contribution to the PPG which was much appreciated.

For myself it has been an honour and privilege to serve as PPG Chair for another year and has certainly kept me awake and but not always as active as I needed to be. I would like to thank a couple of people who without their support and guidance I am not sure where I would be, so Sue and Sylvia my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for being my Sage and Reality advisers. However I am grateful to all of the PPG and your patience and help to steer the ship through calm and troubled waters, and hope I have given everybody the freedom to contribute and feel involved in the PPG's development. Let's hope the next 12 months will bring some normality back to our lives, and simplify our ability to serve all the patients we represent and help make a difference for their lives too!

Eric Catton,

Chair of HHGP-PPG