**Chairs’ Report for the Annual General Meeting of Communicare,**

**the Patient Participation Group of Wansford & Kings Cliffe Medical Practice**

**on 15th April 2024**

May I begin by acknowledging my considerable indebtedness to the other members of the small and enthusiastic organising team of PPG members who provide a ready source of ideas and inspiration and provide much practical input – and keep me on my toes!

They are: David Hellard (Vice Chair), Lin Freeman (Treasurer), Clare Wagstaffe, Peter Philipp and Philip Wright, joined more recently by Pauline Pitcher.

Since our last AGM on 29th March 2023, the Team have met with the Practice on 4 occasions, and this AGM is the second of our open meetings with the Practice.

The first of these open meeting was especially noteworthy as Dr Nally gave a most informative general presentation on ‘Healthy Ageing’ which was complemented by specific information from Pippa Fairhall (the Practice’s Health & Wellbeing Coach). They reminded us that there are many ways in which each of us can keep healthy as we age – whatever our age! We always try to include a time for open discussion in our PPG meetings, but may I remind those who attend that our questions should relate to general matters concerning the Practice and its patients and not to patient-specific enquiries.

Dr Nally has always been open with us regarding the position the Practice finds itself in. For example, the Practice’s patient list has increased by 25% in the last three years and is now nearly 10,500. To increase the scope and expertise within the Practice, specialist staff have been recruited, eg, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacist, Practice Nurse and a Practice Manager for the Kings Cliffe surgery. The limitations to further growth are the physical size of the Practice property and the constraints imposed by NHS Estates. The PPG Team and patients present at the last open meeting expressed strongly their concern that the Practice found itself needing to restrict the registration of new patients, especially for family members of existing patients, but regretfully have to accept the situation.

With this growth in patient numbers, some 235 new patients have asked to be informed about PPG matters, and there are now 700 people on the PPG circulation list.

I am most grateful to the Practice for agreeing to include a short presentation regarding Communicare on its information screen within the patient waiting area.

In order to gain a wider perspective and knowledge and looking beyond our local PPG, members of this PPG are involved in:

Healthwatch - Peterborough Health & Care Forum

Integrated Care System - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Palliative & End of Life Care

Board

The National Association for Patient Participation, and

NHS PPG Champions

Finally, may I thank the Practice Partners, the Practice Manager and Deputy Manager for their willingness to enter into constructive communication and conversations with the PPG so that together we may enable patients to continue to be well-served by the Wansford & Kings Cliffe Medical Practice.

15th April 2024 David Parkes