**Aylmer Lodge Cookley**

**Patient Participation Group**

**AGM on 24th March 2022**

**At Hume St Medical Centre**

**Chair’s Report**

Despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, the PPG has continued to meet on Zoom every two months, with only one meeting postponed.

Our guest speakers have included Margaret Reilly (Healthwatch) Ruth Cooper Jones (CCG) Megan Altindas (Social Prescribing) Eva Neo Harris and Rose Carver (Both from DIAL (Disability Information and Advice Line.)

We currently have a healthy membership of 16 people and are very pleased to welcome five new members. Our loyal members, David Coultas and Frances Peckham, have now retired from the group and we have thanked them for their contributions.

This AGM is our first face to face session for more than two years, so we are welcoming many of our new members in person for the first time.

Several of our members are not online, so Alison Price and I have spoken to them each month by phone to keep them abreast of events and gather patient feedback for the following meeting.

During the summer, we also had two very enjoyable afternoon teas in my garden as a safer way of having a social event. This was in place of a Christmas Meal in a restaurant.

Members’ feedback and Practice Manager Corinne Wood’s Report have taken up the bulk of our meetings. The main themes from our feedback have related to the phone system, appointments, and the success of the covid and flu vaccination clinics.

We have not been able to restart the floorwalking, nor organize any workshops or health events during the past year, which is very frustrating, as we had wished to strengthen this health promotion role.

Our membership of the National Association for Patient Participation (NAPP) continued and the renewal is on today’s agenda.

Our constitution was also updated using guidance from the NAPP website and has been circulated to members.

I believe that we have met the aims as detailed in last year’s AGM report but they were, because of the uncertain world situation, quite narrow. We wanted to keep communication flowing between all our members, especially those unable to join our zoom meetings.

Our aim to ‘work with the practice to maintain the positive innovations introduced during the pandemic and mitigate the negative impacts’ may well be a suitable one for the coming year, and this will probably one of the first tasks on the agenda.

Having completed an extra year as Chair for continuity during the pandemic, I am now standing down but hope to remain a member.

I would like to thank Corinne for continuing to enable the PPG to meet throughout this difficult last year, when her and the Practice’s workload has been dauntingly huge.

To our members, I can say that I have really appreciated your interest and tenacity; your unstinting support during my years as Chair has been a joy.

However, especial applause should go to Alison Price for her admirable and very effective work as our secretary.

As we do not need to hold an election for the new Chair, I can now say with absolute assurance that the PPG will have a very active and effective future under the leadership of Cathryn Plain and I look forward to the group going from strength to strength under her leadership in the coming years.

Julia Stanfield

March 2022