PPG CHAIR REPORT

MONDAY 24th MARCH 2025

Welcome everyone to todays meeting, thank you all for attending.

With the recent news that NHS England is being withdrawn and returning to Government control, views have been mixed, but mainly positive.
The Government believing it will cut red tape and administration. With the sole aim of reducing duplicate jobs, saving money and putting much needed staff back on the front line serving us the public, therefore reducing waiting times in all NHS services.
With this transition due to complete 2026, how will this affect us locally? Any national change will have an impact on local services. So, what about us as patients? Matters concerning confidentiality/data and continuation of care, to name a couple of examples. Will there be a managed working plan at local level to support teams in the handover period. With job losses at the top, do we need to be conerned with department losses also? Time will tell and with more news of changes and their impact, more discussions and debates will follow.

Other NHS news that has caught my attention is the use of AI – Artificial Intelligence – in patients care. The claim being for patients to have better care and support, especially those people who have ongoing conditions. It has been suggested that this will give staff an opportunity to administer more appropiate care sooner. An AI tool is, at the moment, being rolled out on a national level, with 2 million patients involved. This trial is focusing on predicting winter viruses and those at risk of falls to those with home support networks. The predictions are a 97% success rate to alert these bodies (with an app) and a 70% reduction in a hospital admission.
I think more understanding is needed and clarification on exactly how reliable and safe it is. Whether we like it or not, it seems we are moving forward more and more with digital support. We watch with interest.