

FOUR OAKS MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I have now completed my first year as Chairman which I have found challenging trying to allow proper time to the duties of Chairman together with chairing LACA (Little Aston Community Association) a local charity. It has been particularly difficult this year as my Vice Chair of LACA who completely looked after one of the sub-sections unfortunately needed by pass surgery and was laid up for a good part of last year leaving me to fill in for her which continues whilst she fully recovers

However, I look at being Chairman of the PPG as one of guidance and support. Suggestions on how we take the group forward should emanate from members of the committee and these having a consensus can then be taken forward supported by the chair. So, I am happy if you wish me to continue for one more year as Chairman and will try to give sufficient of my time to both organisations.

I think it is worth pointing out again that the PPG is not here to run the NHS or the practice but to act as a buffer between the patient and the practice. Our aim is to help G P's with their time management by offering advice to patients on how they can better help themselves by encouraging them to look at alternative organisations who are better equipped to give advice and offer a pathway to suit the individual. This does not concern medical problems but more social issues.

The committee as a whole is a very enthusiastic bunch proven by another successful event held last year at the Mere Green Community Centre. It may be of interest that the PPG chairs forum has complimented our group on our efforts and recommended all other PPG's look at what we have achieved and follow our lead.

Anne Care, who chairs the forum opened our event last year and was very impressed at the variety of organisations attending and the networking that was encouraged. A special thanks here should be made to both Michelle Corsi from Tudor practice and our own Theresa Hyde for arranging the organisational visitors.

Providing the joint venture of 5/6 local Sutton practices goes ahead we will be working closer with each of the PPG's and have already held a preliminary meeting with Ley Hill, Tudor and Sutton Park with a view to see what sort of future joint projects can be accomplished.

We still need to encourage more people to join the committee especially age groups not represented. We may have experience on our side but surely not the thoughts of our younger patients and those of ethnical background.

I would like to add my own special thanks to Carol for all her time, effort and involvement with the PPG.

This coming year promises to be interesting with the joint venture of the North Birmingham practices forming the largest patient group in the UK, over 260,000, together with the proposed joint venture of the Sutton Practices and last but no means least the review of PPG's by the CCG.

Steve Bennett Chairman

