**CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023.**

 First of all I would like to thank all the members of our AppletreePPG for volunteering to join the Patient Participation Group (PPG )itself. Also I would like to thank you for your support during this year to me as chair which means a lot to me.  I would also wish to thank Lianne Burke the Practice Manager of Appletree Medical Practice for all her invaluable help, support and assistance,without that support we would find it almost impossible to continue our work on the PPG . Also our thanks go to the GP partners for allowing us to have access to Lianne with her expertise and also to  the surgery itself and ancillary facilities such  I.T. ,photocopying and other essential services throughout the year.

I am now entering my 5 th consecutive year as chair. Something I did not contemplate doing in January 2019 when I was first asked if I would allow myself to be first nominated for the position of Chair. Nevertheless I will endeavour to realise your faith in me for a fifth consecutive year as I have been encouraged by your support since March 2019. When I thought I would be in post as chair for 2 years only; as I was reminded then and throughout the next year.

However as we all know now after my second year as chair we were in the middle of an unprecedented and unforseen Pandemic. Covid-19 had meant National Lockdowns, restrictions on our movements and a change in our behaviour to "Protect the NHS". We couldn't meet in person face-to-face so we had to improvise and meet only on-line via the ZOOM platform. As many of us were not, understandably, able to use this platform I therefore agreed to stand for a 3rd consecutive year.

That worked out well and for 2 years that is how we operated. Then when all the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions were lifted because of the success of the mass vaccination programme we could then meet as a full group again in person and face- to- face. Which commenced from January 2022. I realised that attendance at our PPG meetings had reduced significantly whilst being carried out on--line with ZOOM . However I didn't appreciate that that effect could carry over into the physical realm when we were meeting again in the Duffield surgery. It did slightly.  I thought we should have a fresh perspective from a new chair rather than continuing for a 4 th consecutive  year. However Lianne was concerned that if we had no new nominations for chair ,where would that leave the PPG. So  said if that happened I would continue for a 4 th consecutive year, even though that would be against the letter and spirit of our Constitution that states that the chair should only serve for two consecutive years.

 However I think that 4th year has been very successful with a lot of very good work carried especially with regard to the PPG Patient Survey  In relation to the very informative findings from the questionnaire I would wish to thank the PPG patient survey sub group for their very positive and creative input along with the essential invaluable work carried out by Lianne Burke on developing the on--line survey after discussions with the sub group. And collating all the responses for over 130 surveys ready for the  sub group to analyse and develop creative ideas for implementation in response.  John George, John Beavis and Deputy Chairs David Greatorex and John Rowlands were able to attend all or most of the sub group meetings.  They were excellent and made very good contributions. I thank them for their efforts throughout the year. In the Annual General meeting we can perhaps look at these exciting developments. You hopefully have read the final report from the survey produced earlier in the year.

Now when we come to my 5 th consecutive year as chair of our PPG  I really did feel that we should have a fresh perspective again. However at out last meeting in January I was nominated for a 5 th consecutive year again  . I felt duty bound to accept that nomination as no further nominations were made.

Since then unfortunately my home circumstances have changed and I cannot devote as much time as I would wish to the duties of the chair alone. So I wish to nominate a " job share" or " chair share" arrangement to help me during my 5th consecutive year as chair. Fortunately one of our number has agreed to the "job share/ chair share " new arrangement .

He is a relatively new member of the PPG but I worked with him on our PPG patient survey group and found John to be very hard working ,very positive and creative and enthusiastic about our PPG. So I am therefore nominating John to carry out the " job share/ chair share with me for the year 2023-24.

John could use this year as a learning experience to potentially take over as chair after another year say in April 2025 ,if not before if everything works out.

As I see it I could continue to chair the actual PPG meetings and undertake most of the required communications whilst John would lead the other important elements of the role such as implementation of the recommendations arising from the PPG Patient Survey. And looking at any other issues with fresh eyes which I think will be very valuable for our PPG.

I have to say I would only be able to carry out my role as Chair  through the job share / chair role new arrangement.

My personal circumstances now mean that I could not carry out the role if the new arrangement was not agreed and implemented at this AGM.

So I would ask you to nominate John George to this new job share / chair role. The position of chair is still the same it is just being carried out in a new way. A way that is very common in organisations in the corporate,private and public sectors  today.

Finally I would like to thank all PPG members and all associated with Appletree Medical Practice for their support during 2022-2023.

Thank you

.R.George Newton

Chair Appletree PPG

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