

**WHITEMOOR MEDICAL CENTRE
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

Overall

2021 was another very odd year for the Patient Participation Group. It began with the approval for use of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine on 30 December 2020.

The country has come a long way since then. We are now in the process of rolling out vaccinations to all 12 year olds and booster jabs are being given to all those over 18.

The country was unlocked from legal restrictions on July 19 and since then the economy has recovered well. Currently the Omicron variant is spreading rapidly. This has prompted the reintroduction of some restrictions and an accelerated booster programme as we move into 2022.

Meetings

There was no Annual General Meeting in 2021.

We have had 6 meetings during the year, compared with 2 in 2020, and 3 editions of the Newsletter have been produced by the practice. The meetings were held in February, April, June, August, September and November. The first 4 meetings were held remotely using a combination of Microsoft Teams and Conference Call. This significantly reduced the number of members who could attend due to lack of equipment or software. Being connected to a meeting by telephone is very unsatisfactory. The meetings in September and November were face-to-face. This has returned attendance to normal and we have been able to see our 2 new members in 3D.

The 2022 AGM will be on Wednesday 05 January.

Subjects discussed

During the year we discussed the vaccine rollout, Social Care Funding, Patient Appointments (the surgery doors were locked until 19 July and patients had to queue outside and use the intercom to gain access), GP Funding and Supply, Blood Tests, Flu vaccinations, NHS Waiting Lists, the use of the Babington hospital by the Primary Care Network (PCN) and many other subjects. As always we tried to present the problems which patients see when they are trying to access NHS services, with a view to improving access.

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Costs and Data

The cost of the NHS has risen dramatically this year and will continue to be very high for the foreseeable future with tax rises due next April.

We have found a very useful source of national and local NHS data in the NHS Digital website. This allows comparisons to be made between local and national performance, which informs our discussions and provides a national perspective.

Support

There has been a great deal of support for the PPG from the practice, without which the PPG would not have been able to meet in any form during the year, or for there to be any Newsletters published, to which we could contribute.

Membership

I would like to thank all the members who gave up their time to attend the meetings in 2021 and to particularly thank Timothy Skinner, the Practice Manager, the Partners and other staff members, including Lynn Bond the Medical Secretary, who made our meetings possible.

The total membership of the group is currently 17.

Kenneth Barnsley
Chair – Whitemoor PPG 2021
January 2022