

Notes of a Patients' Meeting held at the Hannage Brook Medical Centre on Thursday 13

September 2012 at 6.30pm

Attendance: 28 patients and four representatives of staff from the Hannage Brook Medical Centre were present and there were 18 apologies.

Patient Participation Group: Annie Nelson welcomed everyone and explained that she had chaired the small committee given the task of establishing a properly constituted patients' group. She introduced the draft terms of reference for the Hannage Brook Medical Centre Patient Participation Group (PPG) and answered questions about its purpose and procedures. She thanked Sandy Tomlinson (Practice Manager) and Louise Owen (Assistant Practice Manager) for the support given to the fledgling organisation and stressed that the new group would continue to involve itself in the practice in Wirksworth as well as providing a voice for local patients in discussions with the South Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SDCCG) and its offshoots. The meeting agreed unanimously to adopt the terms of reference on the understanding that they would be reviewed after one year. It was also agreed that Annie Nelson should chair the PPG and that Glenda Farnsworth (Secretary), Janice Spencer (Treasurer), Barrie Dyer, Roy Pearce and Barry Foster (Deputy Chair) should serve as committee members.

Dr Ian Lawrence led a question and answer session on the ongoing changes to the NHS. He outlined the new structures and explained how the Hannage Brook Medical Centre and the newly formed PPG fitted in. He acknowledged the financial pressures on the NHS brought about by government restrictions, an aging population and the massive re-organisation. He gave examples of the creative ways GPs and hospitals were, at present, coping with these pressures. He accepted that there were anxieties about the future privatisation of the NHS but felt the SDCCG, led by doctors, had the power and the will to resist any moves towards further privatisation.

Close of meeting: Annie Nelson thanked Dr Lawrence for his informative answers to thoughtful questions and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Barry Foster

15 September 2012