

## **MNUTES OF PPG MEETING – 19 January 2024 at 1.00 pm**

### **Present:**

**Dr Otobo – GP Partner**  
**Georgie Weir – Practice Manager**  
**Natalie Rayner – Social Prescriber**  
**Jeannette Cooney - Minutes**  
**Simon Peters – PPG member**  
**David Sibley – PPG member**  
**Margaret Quincey – PPG member**  
**Carol Gardner – PPG member**

### **Apologies**

**Sue Conley**  
**Jane Upward**

### **The Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted**

### **Matters arising from the Minutes**

**Georgie reported a slight increase in GP list numbers from 7071 patients in Jan 2022 to 7387 now – a surprisingly small increase considering the amount of housing being built locally. She also confirmed that the Fenland Demetia programme has been actively promoted as requested via social media and posters etc. Carol asked how dementia concerns are addressed and Natalie advised that initial tests were carried out by RHC and referred on if necessary. It was noted that the Red House Care Home in Ramsey has closed and apparently Upwood Care Home is now a respite only facility. Also noted was the general government initiative to raise awareness of the role pharmacies can play in treatment and diagnosis within the community and to this end RHC is looking to work more closely with Ramsey pharmacy which is now in private ownership. Simon asked whether over 60s had to pay for prescriptions with private pharmacies – it was confirmed they do not if they meet certain prescribing criteria for pharmacists.**

### **West Cambridgeshire Federation**

**Dr Otobo gave the group an update to the effect that the government is encouraging small practices (usually rural) to merge into Federations to enable extended access (24 hr) to care. However, there are not enough GPs for this to work and due to financial problems the West Cambs Federation has collapsed so the aim now is to try and put something else in place to provide a better service for rural areas. The suggestion is to give 7½ hours extra per week to RHC for enhanced access and Dr Otobo was interested in**

hearing the views of PPG members re the best use of this extra time. After much discussion it was agreed that the extra hours should be for evening and/or weekend appointments and not during normal daytime hours. It was generally felt that Saturdays and perhaps 2 evenings would be best for staff and patients alike. Dr Otobo also pointed out that although the government had promised an extra 4000 GPs it appeared to be putting more money into widening access to health professionals and less into increasing the number of GPs and as there is a finite amount of money available care will obviously be a mix of GPs and other health professionals.

### **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board (ICB)**

In order to access funding and try to find a service to suit the needs of Ramsey we will be further collaborating with our Primary Care Network and our fellow practices in March and thus hopefully widen care facilities within the area.

### **Any Other Business**

Due to the resignation of our Chairperson Julie Drummond this position was once again vacant. Many thanks to Simon for volunteering to fill the vacancy.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.00 pm and the next meeting arranged for 24 April (details TBC).