



Heald Green Health Centre



# PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Dr A Wright & Partners

Dr K Dean & Partners

## Newsletter

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Issue 1

### Who Are We?

Some twenty years ago this Patient Participation Group was formed at the request of Dr Dean. It began with a few patients within the practice meeting to discuss medical issues that might help their health and well-being. A little while later it was agreed by the other practice, now led by Dr Wright, that their patients should be invited to form a similar group. However it was mutually beneficial for the two groups to join together in sharing speakers and they have met together from September to May ever since and the Committee has evolved so that it is now made up of patients elected from both practices. Whilst we have kept the name and acronym PPG, under the terms decreed by the Government, we are Patient Reference Groups under the auspices of the two practices operating out of Heald Green Medical Centre. This means, for example, that any questionnaires or surveys are always kept separate when the PPG is asked to help hand them out for patients to complete. Nobody in the PPG has sight of patients' names or replies but merely indicates which practice box they should be posted into. This saves reception staff a lot of time and means they can concentrate on helping patients.

### What do we do?

This Group has gained the respect of the Primary Care Trust (PCT). There have been several occasions when they have been invited to comment on certain aspects of care within Stockport. We were very much involved with the GPs and the PCT in campaigning for the new building we enjoy today. The then Chairman and Secretary attended meetings with the PCT, builders and councillor over a period of two years every fortnight and were able to suggest moves that we believed would benefit patients overall. We met three local MPS over the many years it took us to finally see the Medical Centre opened three years ago by John Amaechi, the son of Dr Wendy Amaechi who had been a doctor in Heald Green for many years before her early death. The whole group attended the local area planning meetings en masse and we campaigned long and hard for such services as District Nurses, Podiatrists and Physiotherapists to be brought back to Heald Green when we had to move into temporary buildings whilst the rebuild took place.

### Please come and join us

Now changes have come and we are required to have on-line facilities for patients who feel they cannot attend our **meetings which are generally held at the Health Centre on the first Thursday of each month from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm.** We have had some excellent speakers, for example, from the PCT, Stepping Hill, Wythenshawe Hospital, the Medical Officer of Health on various subjects related to smoking, alcohol related illnesses etc. How our out of hours Mastercall service operates, mental illness and local voluntary organisations which impact on our overall well-being.

All patients from either of the two practices can join the PPG but we would particularly like to encourage younger patients so that their needs and views can be represented. We are at a very important time as the new Clinical Commissioning Group in Stockport takes over from the Primary Care Trust.

The surgeries need and want our support and encouragement and patients CAN make a difference as we have proved.

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