

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

The Whitestone Team and Patient Participation Group (WS-PPG) had a tremendously successful year delivering a first class service to the community. At a time of significantly reduced services in the NHS, with thousands of patients missing regular appointments, Whitestone patients routinely receive amongst the best access to primary care in the region. For example the **Annual Health MOT** has been offered to 100% of patients on the chronic disease register. Building on our strengths as a **recognised leader in social prescribing** in the UK, we also introduced the **Care Navigator** role to streamline patient access to local health and wellbeing services.



In their first year as WS-PPG Chair and Vice Chair, Patricia Lawlor and Richard Healey faced robust challenges to keep a strong community presence. With the assistance of the **Computer Group** most of the PPG's activities were moved online.

One outstanding achievement was the creation of the **Whitestone Community Care Response Group** supported by Councillor Jeff Morgan. The group was set up to help those in need in the Whitestone area during the Covid-19 pandemic and now has over 30 members. Local volunteers have come forward to provide help and assistance in response to the lockdown caused by the outbreak. New community connections and friendships have been developed giving the lonely, isolated and vulnerable members of our community reassurance that help is at hand. The group was featured in **Nuneaton News**.

WS-PPG partnered with Oxford University's Centre of Evidence-Based Medicine, Guideposts Trust and Warwickshire County Council. The consortium, sponsored by Dr Shade Agboola, Director of Public Health Warwickshire, was a finalist in **The Healthy Communities Together Programme** nationwide bid, facilitated by the National Lottery and the Kings Fund to deliver Care Response Groups and **Job Clubs** from GP surgeries.

As we emerge from societal restrictions, we are planning to resume current programmes such as the well-received **POSITIVE VIBES HEALTHY LIVES**, a programme led by Hannah King, redesigning health and wellbeing activities for young people in the Whitestone area. WS-PPG is at advanced stage planning for the implementation of new initiatives including a future bereavement group, educational presentations, and social events. We welcome enquiries from any of our patients and volunteers. If you have suggestions for future services you would like to see in 2021 or can offer your support or skills to our group – a warm welcome awaits. **Click here** to register your interest.

The Whitestone Team
December 2020