Dear fellow members of the Ashdown Forest Health Centre PRG.

I must explain that whilst I attended an NHS open day in Lewes, I was approached by one of the organisers. Upon learning that I was from our general practice, he announced that I could be your PRG representative as you did not have one. That is the current situation. If any member feels that they would wish to take my place then I would be quite happy to hand over this responsibility.

In the meantime I have attended two meeting of the CCG and can report a few highlights of those meetings. Unfortunately I am away at your next meeting with Mr Cornell so please ensure that the minutes reflect your views etc.

A representative from the NHS briefed the meeting, 5/2/19, on the situation regarding the possible moving of the stroke emergency services in our area to either Eastbourne or Maidstone. The idea is that the receptive hospital will be more able to attend to the needs of patients through specialty staff, equipment, etc. This was not well received by the meeting, and he took those views away with him.

We were also made aware of the forthcoming implementation of online consultations being available at all surgeries. I am not aware of the situation in our surgery in Forest Row, but it is the intention that this will, if properly implemented, ease the work load on our doctors and nurses. I am sure that Mr Cornell can update you on this process at the next PRG meeting.

At a previous CCG meeting on 29/11/18 an NHS representative briefed the meeting on the 'new integrated urgent care model', which requires the goodwill of local GP surgeries. This entails the hoped for additional out of hours service by local surgeries and hospitals. The idea is to take patients away from A & E. Once again the meeting were concerned that though this was a good idea, are patients aware of this, and will they take any notice?

From David Watson