

Ashlea Medical Practice Patient Participation Group Annual General Meeting April 2026

New Chair Introduction

It is a real privilege to take over as Chairman of this Patient Participation Group, and I would like to begin by paying tribute to Richard Garrard for his outstanding leadership over the last 12 years.

Richard joined the Patient Participation Group at Ashlea Medical Practice in 2014, and under his leadership it became such a success that it won **Best PPG of the Year 2017** from the National Association of Patient Participation Groups. That achievement says a great deal about Richard's vision, commitment and ability to bring people together for the benefit of patients and the wider community.

Over the years, Richard has led the PPG in supporting the Practice with a wide range of projects, including:

- patient surveys, including one for autistic patients under the age of 18;
- changes to the appointment system to help address the problems of the 8am rush;
- the formation of the Friends of Ashlea Medical Practice, liaising with relevant bodies to support the Practice's future growth and expansion;
- a Family Health Day for residents in Ashtead;
- working with other local PPGs on key areas of improvement for patients;
- and many other initiatives and efforts.

His contribution, however, goes far beyond this group.

Richard has also served as Chair of Ashtead Good Neighbours, helping it grow to more than 100 volunteer drivers providing transport for medical appointments. He also played a leading role in bringing Ashtead's first public access defibrillator into service in 2017, an important project that has undoubtedly helped strengthen community safety. In addition, he has supported many other local organisations, including the British Legion Poppy Appeal and The Arts Society Ashtead.

Richard, on behalf of us all, thank you for your leadership, your energy and your outstanding service to this group and to the community. You leave very big shoes to fill.

I have been part of the PPG since 2022 and have been a patient of Ashlea Medical Practice since 2001. My family roots in Ashtead go back to 1936, so this community has long been very important to me. My mother trained at Guy's Hospital, and healthcare has always been something I have valued deeply. Having also had experience of the US healthcare system, I have a deep appreciation for the NHS and for the principle of healthcare being available to all. It is something I care about very much.

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to support my GP practice in this role, and I look forward to making a positive contribution alongside our wonderful PPG. I hope we can continue Richard's legacy of listening to patients, supporting the Practice and helping to strengthen the health and wellbeing of our local community.

Sincerely,
Jayne Mansfield