

## **Umbrella Group Update July 2021**

There has been increasing concern at meetings this year that the development of Patient Participation had stalled severely during the COVID pandemic and that the Umbrella Group should take a strong lead in restoring it.

Whilst acknowledging that things will properly vary from Practice to Practice, and that we can support each other with this, we particularly need a unified voice on matters of strategic concern in the area. The Group therefore invited Paula Varndell Dawes of NHS Kernow to discuss this with us at the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

We were greatly encouraged by the value she put on patient participation and her praise for the way local volunteers had assisted the NHS in the last year. She actually said that NHS Kernow would consequently need to “look at healthcare delivery differently”.

Of course, we are going to look for action as well as words. Three representatives from the Umbrella Group will meet later in the month with some NHS Kernow staff to take forward the detail.

One very important aspect of this is the division of Cornwall into three Integrated Care Areas (ICA), each with its own Board. We are in the North/East ICA, and will seek to nominate representatives to this Board.

Peter Thistlethwaite  
Representing PPG