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E-Bulletin from

National Association for Patient Participation

Issue Number 64 June 2012

1. N.A.P.P. Conference 'Empowering Patients, Supporting Practices'

Over 120 delegates attended the event on May 26th in Manchester. The keynote speech 'Striking a new deal with patients in support of a quality service' was delivered by Professor Rajan Madhok on behalf of by Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the General Medical Council, who was indisposed. There was a real sense of energy and feedback confirmed that PPGs feel it is now more than ever the time to realise their potential and maximise their role in working with and supporting doctors and practice teams to deliver quality responsive services. Patients and staff members of PPGs shared information and network with each other and with other patient related organisations and staff from PCTs and CCGs. The conference report and presentations will be available on the N.A.P.P website by Monday 11th June.

2. Department of Health Smart Guides to Engagement for CCGs

A new series of 10 guides have been published over the last six weeks, giving practical advice to Clinical Commissioning Groups about the value of patient and public engagement. Domain 2 of the CCG authorisation process requires evidence of "meaningful engagement with patients, carers and communities". The guides have been co-produced by PPE experts from several organisations with support from the Department of Health. All 10 are now available to download from [NHS Networks](#) where CCGs are also invited to leave feedback.

N.A.P.P was commissioned to write the Smart Guide for CCGs on how to engage with PPGs, '[Practices and patient engagement](#)', published on 14th May. We have also produced a briefing note for CCGs about the support N.A.P.P can offer to help them engage with PPGs in their localities. Both of these Guides are under the 'NEWS' heading on the home page of the N.A.P.P website www.napp.org.uk.

3. Proposed CCG configuration and member practices published

On 24th May, The NHS Commissioning Board Authority has published the proposed configuration and member practices for 212 proposed CCGs for the first time. The paper confirms that there are now proposed CCGs covering the whole of England and includes the detailed geographic areas for each for the first time, plus the planning assumptions about the member practices in each proposed CCG (using April 2011 data). This means that everyone living in England will be covered by a CCG from April 2013. To see the full list of CCGs, showing populations and running costs with lists of member practices. [Read more.....](#)

4. No decision about me without me: Further consultation on proposals to secure shared decision-making

The White Paper, Liberating the NHS: Equity and Excellence, set out the Government's ambition to achieve healthcare outcomes that are among the best in the world by involving patients fully in their own care, with decisions made in partnership with clinicians, rather than by clinicians alone, making "no decision about me, without me" a reality. The Department of Health has been looking at how it can achieve this and at those areas where it can give patients and service users, their carers and families more say. The DH wants to provide more choice all along the healthcare pathway, enabling patients and their representatives to share in decisions about their care in clinical areas such as mental health services, maternity care, long-term conditions and community services.

This consultation document, "**Liberating the NHS: No decision about me, without me**" sets out detailed proposals to achieve this. It follows on from the earlier Liberating the NHS:

Greater choice and control consultation, which asked a number of open questions about how the commitments to give patients more say as set out in the White Paper could be implemented. The DH is seeking views on these proposals. **The consultation period runs until 20 July 2012.** Access the online consultation document [here](#)

5. Making medical tests work for you: offering patients more choice

New [proposals](#) published outline how, for the first time, patients will be able to choose where they receive essential tests, including blood tests and heart scans. From April 2013, patients will be able to pick somewhere closer to home or near where they work, instead of having to go to the nearest available option. They will make these decisions in partnership with their doctor, who can help advise them on which choice would be most appropriate for them.

6. Encouraging the spread of good practice

NHS Improvement has published 'Fulfilling the Potential: a Better Journey for Patients, a Better Deal for the NHS'. 'Enhanced recovery pathways' were originally established within four surgical specialities. This [publication](#) shows professionals and commissioners how to meet the challenge of spreading and adoption of this approach to ensure that all patients that can benefit from it. It is based on four working principles, which clearly involve the patient in an active and responsible role in his/her recovery.

7. My role and my responsibilities in helping to improve my recovery

This is the title of a patient leaflet which has been designed, tested and evaluated by patients for patients in order to give practical step by step advice to anyone prior, during and after surgery. The [leaflet](#) can be used alongside existing patient information to support key messages and encourage patients to take an active role in their preparation and recovery from surgery.

8. Have your say on long term condition strategy

The Department of Health is asking people to comment on what should be covered by the cross-government long term conditions strategy for England, describing how they want to see improvements in the lives of people with long term conditions. This is currently being drafted for publication at the end of 2012.

They would like to hear from people with long term conditions, carers, health professionals, commissioners, local authorities and the voluntary sector. People's experiences, both positive and negative, and their ideas about what could be done differently, are vital to make the strategy as relevant as possible. The content of the strategy will not be confined to health issues. It will also cover other aspects of people's lives that can be affected by long term conditions and bring together departments across central government to sign up to shared aims. [Find out more....](#)

9. Corkill Award: N.A.P.P. of the Year 2012

The winning PPG, the Bradford-based Wilsden Practice received a certificate and cheque for £500 at N.A.P.P.'s conference on 26th May, where their Chair, Wendy Parkin, presented a summary of the numerous activities they have undertaken since their formation in 2010. Runners-up Fountain Connections from Newark, have received a £250 cheque and certificate. The two groups were the unanimous choices of all three judges, N.A.P.P.'s Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive. See the website www.napp.org.uk after June 11th for more details.

10. Reminder: Please forward this bulletin to fellow members as promptly as possible. We do not send hard copies of e-bulletins. All previous e-bulletins and Newsletters are available on our website at www.napp.org.uk. The Spring 2012 edition of Patient Matters is in the website Members' Area. Login details from edith.todd@napp.org.uk

*Stephanie Varah,
Chief Executive
June 2012*