



E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 105 March 2016

1. Latest N.A.P.P. News

a. 2016 Corkill Award: N.A.P.P. PPG of the Year: Deadline 25th April

Your PPG could win prizes of up to £500! The award recognises excellent work by your PPG in building and maintaining relationships and communication between patients and the practice. Applications which demonstrate innovation will be welcome. Tell us about creative and different approaches you have used in your PPG and how you have done things differently. The application form and details of this year's criteria are in the Members' area of the N.A.P.P. website <http://www.napp.org.uk/corkill.html>. You can also see what previous winners achieved. Please remember that

- Only online entries will be considered.
- Scanned or hand-written forms cannot be accepted.

b. Diary dates

- **6th – 11th June 2016: PPG Awareness Week:** The Resource pack is now available on the home page of the N.A.P.P. website at www.napp.org.uk. The week coincides with both [Carers Week](#) and the following week is [Men's Health Week](#). Both provide useful resources and both would be excellent topics to highlight along with PPGs.
- **11th June 2016: Annual Conference "Transforming Services Together: Transformation, Integration and Federation - What do they mean for Patients?"** at the Park Hotel, Stretton, Cheshire. The Keynote speaker will be Dr Terry Kemple, President of the Royal College of GPs. Registration form and draft programme are [here](#).

- **N.A.P.P. website Member Forum:** The majority of member PPGs have applied for their login to access resources which are not accessible to the general public. Until recently, this has also provided access to the members' forum where members could post message, raise questions and respond to others. Due to problems outside our control, the Forum is not functioning and we have had to close it until we can find a solution. Meantime, do look at N.A.P.P.'s Twitter and Facebook pages to find out what others have to say.

2. Unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions reduced

As part of the government's plans to slow the growth of antimicrobial resistance, a [trial](#) involving over 1,500 GP practices found that writing to GPs about their antibiotics prescribing resulted in 73,000 fewer prescriptions (a 3.3% reduction) over six months, equating to direct savings of over £92,000 in prescription costs. Increasing resistance to antibiotics and a lack of new drugs means there is a greater risk of infections that cannot be treated.

3. Health Pledges: Join a choir, volunteer, or help with reading in schools

[Health Pledge](#) is an initiative of N.A.P.P. member group, Thornley House PPG and the brainchild of its Chair, Ingrid Brindle. New research published by BMJ Open suggests that membership of social groups such as book clubs or church groups (or PPGs) after retirement is linked with improved health and wellbeing. The [research](#) backs NICE's recent recommendations advising councils to do more to offer group activities to older people in order to tackle loneliness and improve wellbeing.

4. Ending hospital referrals by second class post

At the moment around 50% of patients are still being referred for hospital appointments by letter sent by second class post. NHS England wants to end this and has set targets for the proportion of electronic referrals of 60% by September 2016, 80% by 2017 and 100% by 2018. £55m has been set aside to reward GPs and hospitals for making referrals digitally by 2018. NHS England and NHS Improvement also plan to consult on a [proposal](#) that by 2018 NHS commissioners and providers will no longer be paid for referrals made by paper.

5. Charities 'crucial' to widespread implementation of care and support planning

A paper from National Voices, the coalition of health and social care charities in England, suggests that the knowledge, skills, experience and resources of voluntary sector organisations are crucial to the widespread implementation of care and support planning. It argues that charities have a vital role in supporting people to develop care and support plans, and in working with people with long-term conditions and their clinical teams to put the plans into practice. [More....](#)

6. Coherent approach to quality improvement to meet health care needs

The King's Fund has published a [paper](#) arguing that despite a succession of well-meaning policy initiatives over the past two decades the NHS in England has lacked a coherent approach to improving quality of care. It suggests that, without a sustained and comprehensive commitment to quality improvement as its principal strategy, the health care needs of the population cannot be met. It describes key features of a quality improvement strategy and the role of organisations at different levels in realising it, offering 10 design principles to guide its development. A quality improvement strategy of this kind has never been implemented at such a scale and the challenge in doing so is immense – yet the paper argues that the NHS has no real alternative.

7. Vanguard explained

Some member PPGs are linked to GP practice or Clinical Commissioning Group which are engaged in one of 50 vanguard projects. A guide has been published, aimed at health and care staff, patients and the public, summarising the aims and objectives of the projects. The [resources](#) showcase some of the innovative work being done. Included are an animation and suite of [factsheets](#) to explain the five types of care models the vanguards fall under.

8. Tomorrow's world: the future of ageing in the UK

This report argues that our ageing society offers significant social and economic opportunities but only if policymakers plan better for the long term. It argues that society is currently not adequately responding to ageing and highlights the key issues within health and social care, housing and retirement funds in relation to this. The report proposes ten long-term indicators of progress including a greater focus on prevention in health care and that the government should deliver a long-term settlement for social care. [More ...](#)

9. Get your N.A.P.P. member password now! The Members' pages of N.A.P.P.'s website contain **key resources available only to affiliated PPGs and CCGs**. To get your PPG's login details, **visit the website, click on Members and use the screen instructions**. We recommend each PPG to have a group email address as the username for the login.

10. Reminders: Please email this bulletin to fellow members promptly. We do not send hard copies of e-bulletins. All bulletins are at <http://www.napp.org.uk/ebulletins.html>

Edith Todd, Trustee

March 2016