

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas MC PPG <barnabas.ppg@gmail.com>
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To All Barnabas PPG Members ...
(Printed copies to those without email)
(Copied to Ealing North North PPG Reps)

Welcome to the March bulletin for Barnabas PPG members. There is a lot happening within our healthcare environment at the moment, so this bulletin really is only a few of the highlights.

[If you can't read any of the attached documents, or need printed copies of anything mentioned, please contact me and I'll try to send you a copy.]

PPG Meeting, Monday 16 March

Our next PPG meeting is on Monday 16 March, 6PM at the Medical Centre. The agenda will be:

1. Introductions
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (5 mins)
3. Extended Access Initiatives, Prime Minister's Challenge Fund etc. (Dr Parmar, 20 mins)
4. PPG Awareness Week Activities (15 mins)
5. Share & Exchange (10 mins)
6. Practice Updates (5 mins)
7. PPG Updates (5 mins)
8. AOB (5 mins)

A copy of the minutes of the last meeting is attached.

May PPG Meeting

A reminder that I would still like your input on who we would like as a speaker at our meeting on afternoon of 12 May.

Barnabas Bulletin

The Practice's latest newsletter, *Barnabas Bulletin*, is now available; a copy is attached.

PPG Coffee Morning

As you'll see from *Barnabas Bulletin*, we held a very successful coffee morning on Saturday 21 February, as a result of which we are delighted to welcome a couple of new members. Much of the time was spent sharing information and knowledge about healthcare services and the workings of the NHS, so hopefully everyone got something from what was an enjoyable couple of hours. We also raised £25.05 to provide more stock for the book exchange – thank you!

Area PPG Network

As some of you know I have been working informally for the last year to establish a network of the PPGs in our area (known as Ealing North North!); an effort which was beginning to bear fruit. Ealing CCG, with Healthwatch Ealing, have now initiated a similar piece of work from the top down, with a meeting on the evening of Tuesday 3 March hosted by Dr Parmar and facilitated by Suzanne Lyn-Cook (Director, Healthwatch Ealing) and Jill Downey (Ealing CCG, PPE). Eight of our 11 practice PPGs were represented at this meeting, the network concept was enthusiastically embraced and the two network initiatives were joined together. The group agreed that over the next couple of months we will build our (semi-formal) terms of reference with a view to reconvening at a second facilitated meeting, in early June, to plan our way forward. I was volunteered to Chair the group (at least initially) and Jill Warwick (Chair of Meadowview PPG) was nominated as Vice-Chair. More news as we develop our plans for the ENN PPG Network.

Improvements to NHS services in Ealing

There have recently been a number of key changes and improvements in NHS services in the borough. You can find a summary at <http://www.healthwatchealing.co.uk/news/improvements-nhs-services-ealing>. With the ongoing work on the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund you can expect to see further developments over the coming weeks and months – more as this happens.

Consultation on Changes to Ealing's Public Health Services

Ealing Council has responsibility for the health and wellbeing of its citizens. But as we are all aware councils generally are having their funding slashed by the government. Consequently Ealing Council are consulting on the reprofiling of the borough's health and wellbeing services. If you would like to express your opinion you can find more on the consultation at http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200628/current_consultations/1966/consultation_on_changes_to_ealings_public_health_services. The consultation is open until 30 March.

Updating the NHS Constitution

Also currently the government are consulting on proposals to update the NHS Constitution. This is the document which defines the rights to which patients, public and staff are entitled; and the responsibilities owed to each other to ensure the NHS operates fairly and effectively. You can find the consultation at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/updating-the-nhs-constitution>, but be quick as it ends on 11 March.

Are you Confused by the Organisation of the NHS?

If so, you are not alone! However I recently came across a helpful diagram, in a document from the King's Fund, which lays out the NHS organisation at least as it applies to London (other areas won't be significantly different). I've attached a copy for your further confusion!

Refusing People Hearing Aids – a Parable for Britain's Short-Term Health Policy

I know that audiology services are a special interest for a number of you. Back in February the *Guardian* published an article by Jackie Ashley on the way in which the provision of NHS hearing aids is coming under pressure, and how this is actually very short-sighted. You can find the article online at <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/09/hearing-aids-health-policy-austerity-nhs>.

London Air Ambulance wants a Second Helicopter

Despite its size and population London has just one air ambulance serving around 10 million people. This means that for several weeks a year London has NO air ambulance because the helicopter is undergoing maintenance. So the London Air Ambulance charity is aiming to raise £6 million to buy a second 'chopper – and they are already over half way there. If you would like to donate towards the second air ambulance, or just to support their work, you can do so at <http://londonsairambulance.co.uk/donate>.

And just so you know ...

- **Wednesday 11 March is No Smoking Day** – more at <https://nosmokingday.org.uk/>.
- **March is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month** – more at <https://www.eveappeal.org.uk/gynaecological-cancers/ovarian-cancer/> and in *Barnabas Bulletin*.

NAPP eBulletin

The February eBulletin from NAPP is attached. Note that this contains basic details of the NAPP Conference on Saturday 6 June. If any member wishes to attend the conference on behalf of the PPG, please get in touch with me.

Healthwatch Ealing News

As always there is much more news about the NHS and healthcare than I can cover here. You can find summaries of some of the most important items on the Healthwatch Ealing news page at <http://www.healthwatchealing.co.uk/news>.

Don't forget the **Healthwatch Ealing Drop-in Service** on the last Friday of the month and **Signposting@Healthwatch Ealing**. Find out more at <http://www.healthwatchealing.co.uk/content/find-services>, by phone on 0800 014 7306 or 020 8280 2277 or by email to signposting@healthwatchealing.co.uk. This month the Drop-in Service will be at the Southall Dominion Centre.

A reminder that you can find copies of the regular Healthwatch Ealing flashes at <http://www.healthwatchealing.co.uk/flash-healthwatch-ealing>. They contain involvement opportunities and items on local healthcare issues. As they are several pages I don't attach them here, but I am circulating them by email when they appear.

Next PPG Meeting

Monday 16 March, 6pm, Barnabas Medical Centre

All our meetings are open to anyone who is a patient, the carer of a patient or a member of staff of Barnabas Medical Centre.

More next month!

Keith

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