

Keith Marshall

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To All Barnabas PPG Members ...
[Printed copies to those PPG members without email]

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

Welcome to the March bulletin for Barnabas PPG members. There is lots of PPG stuff in this month's bulletin, but not so much in the way of news.

PPG Meeting, Monday 3 April – Agenda

Our next meeting is on Monday 3 April, at 6pm in the LINK area of St Barnabas Church Hall. We have a full agenda with two guests: Sheree Hunt, the Manager from Boots Oldfields Circus, to update us on the work to turn round the store, and Neha Unadkat, Deputy MD of Ealing CCG to tell us about current local NHS initiatives. The full agenda should be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Boots Oldfields Circus Update (15 mins)
4. NHS Developments (30 mins)
5. Confirm PPG Priorities
6. Practice Annual Survey
7. Regular "PPG Days"
8. Practice Updates
9. Other Updates, Matters Arising & AOB

Please do come along to the meeting.

PPG Days – Volunteers Wanted

As you will have noticed from the minutes of our last meeting, one of the things we want to do this year is to spend at least half a day a month in the practice, talking to patients in the waiting area, answering questions and getting them interested in the PPG. I have earmarked the following dates for this, starting at the end of April:

- Thursday 27 April AM
- Wednesday 31 May PM
- Wednesday 21 June AM
- Friday 23 June AM
- Tuesday 25 July PM
- Thursday 31 August PM
- Tuesday 26 September AM
- Tuesday 24 October AM
- Friday 24 November AM
- Wednesday 13 December PM

The AM session will be 9am to 12 noon; the PM session should be 2pm to 5pm. My intention is that we should work in pairs.

To make this a success we need you to volunteer to do this – without volunteers it won't happen! While I don't yet expect anyone to commit for the end of the year, I do need volunteers, please, for the next few months. If you can cover any of these days, please let me know soonest. Oh and yes, of course, you'll get a briefing beforehand.

And if anyone wants to volunteer to do this at other times (not on a Monday or a Friday afternoon) then again please get in touch.

Practice's Annual Patient Survey – Advance Warning

The Practice would like us to run their annual patient survey again this year, as we have for the last several years. And as before this will be in June. The difference this year is that we will spread the five survey days over five weeks (one day a week); the dates are:

- Friday 2 June
- Thursday 8 June

- Wednesday 14 June
- Tuesday 20 June
- Monday 26 June

Hopefully by spreading out the dates it will make it easier for us all to volunteer our time. I don't want volunteers yet (I'll plan to set up a schedule for next month's bulletin), but do please make a note of the dates.

[Note that Tuesday 20 June, and the "PPG Day" dates Wednesday 21 and Friday 23 June are all during this year's PPG Awareness Week.]

Stickman Communications

First of all with our news items, here's something which might help those with a disability or long-term condition. I've recently found out about a small organisation called **Stickman Communications** who produce small explanatory cards about disabilities and support the idea that disability is not negative, but a different normal. The idea is that you can carry your selection of cards and use them to explain to others why you are uncommunicative, lying on the floor, needing food now!, or whatever. The cards cover a whole range of conditions from autism and diabetes to wheelchair use and chronic pain. Stickman also produce other helpful merchandise like car stickers asking people to leave room for wheelchair access, pin badges and leaflets.

All this is done by a young woman who herself has a long-term disability. All the wording etc. is carefully checked by appropriate users. Because the items are simple and straightforward they are mostly available at little more than pocket-money prices.

You can find Stickman Communications online at <http://stickmancommunications.co.uk/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StickmanCommunications/>

Speedier Access to GPs

According to NHS head, Simon Stevens, patients will be promised speedier access to GPs with family doctors named and shamed for long waiting times. Under new NHS plans every GP practice will be ordered to publish waiting times, in order to drive improvements, and allow patients to choose surgeries with better access. And the plan for universal 8am-8pm GP cover, 7 days a week is being brought forward to March 2019.

There will also be an overhaul of emergency care, with promises to increase the proportion of NHS111 calls assessed by medics. Hospitals across England are being ordered to empty 3000 beds in order to relieve pressure – except of course the burden will doubtless fall on the already underfunded social care services. Hospitals are also being told to have GPs doing triage at the front of every A&E department.

Needless to say GP leaders have not been impressed. And, no, I don't see how these plans are going to help either!

Full story at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/09/patients-promised-speedier-access-gps-long-waits-named-shamed/>.

Evolution of Commissioning

In a separate news item Simon Stevens is reported to be promising a change in the way healthcare commissioning is done by removing the divide between commissioners ("purchasers") and "providers". The idea is to remove the way in which hospitals are paid for each patient treated – something which means they have an incentive to see as many patients as possible thus impacting the current strategy to keep patients out of hospital and treated closer to home. It all sounds logical, but raises (at least in my mind) further worries over conflict of interest as well as it being yet more change for the NHS to cope with. Full story online at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-39116005>.

NAPP eBulletin

The latest (February) eBulletin from NAPP is attached. It contains a number of interesting and useful news items which I have not covered above.

More next month, but meanwhile I hope to see you at our meeting on 3 April.

Keith

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