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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 April bulletin for Barnabas PPG members. Given the mess the country is in at the moment there has been a surprising amount of healthcare news recently, so this month's bulletin only manages to scrape the surface.

CQC Inspection

The team of CQC inspectors was in the Practice on Monday 1 April. Although I have not yet had any feedback from the Practice, I did have an opportunity to chat with the lead inspector for 10-15 minutes. This gave me the chance to promote the work we do, and highly praise the Practice. The inspectors seemed to go away very happy, so I'm hopeful we will get another good rating.

PPG Meeting – Wednesday 24 April – Agenda

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 24 April, 1300 hrs, in St Barnabas Church Hall.

The provisional agenda is:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. CQC Inspection Feedback
4. Annual Survey Organisation
5. Confirm 2019-21 Priorities
6. Other Practice Updates
7. Other PPG Updates
8. Matters Arising, AOB

I hope we may also have one of the doctors to talk about their job – because it is a lot more than just seeing patients for 10 minutes.

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

2019-21 Priorities

Attached are copies of our agreed Priorities for 2019-21 and the open items from the Action Log, which we will discuss at the next meeting. Feedback and input is always welcome.

Barnabas Bulletin

In case anyone missed it, I've attached a copy of the March issue of *Barnabas Bulletin*. Again input is always welcome, especially if you can contribute an article for *BB*.

Meet the Patients

Because of the CQC inspection last week we moved the March "Meet the Patients" session to Monday 1 April. And as we are now able to demonstrate many of the online services (Practice website, booking appointments, requesting repeat prescriptions, NHS 111 online, NHS Choices website, Health Help Now app, NHS App). Consequently I have added a handful of extra dates for "Meet the Patients" during the year, and rescheduled a few (although these could still change). A list of the revised dates for the rest of this year is attached.

We will be in the waiting area again on the afternoon of Tuesday 30 April for another "Meet the Patients" session. Volunteers to help run this are always welcome; please get in touch.

Annual Survey Dates

As in previous years the Practice has asked us to run their annual patient survey, and I previously suggested dates when we would do this. However I realised the dates I suggested were not brilliant – if the first day is a Monday then we'll be getting in the way setting up a busy Monday morning. So I have rescheduled the dates; the new dates are on the attached sheet.

PPG Local Services Directory

I have begun building the proposed directory of local facilities (banks, chemists, charity shops, food banks, etc.). However I would be happy if anyone volunteers to take on this piece of work for us. I would also like any suggestions for addition to the list. If I have the time I will bring an early draft to the PPG Meeting on 24 April.

NHS App

The smartphone NHS App has been opened up to Barnabas' patients in the last week or so. The app provides a simple and secure way for people to access a range of NHS services on their smartphone or tablet. I have not yet been able to test this out myself, mainly because registering for the app is a horribly convoluted security process (I'm sure it doesn't need to be this bad!), but I will try to provide feedback in due course. If you wish to install the NHS App you can find it on the Apple Store and Google Play. There is also more information online at <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/the-nhs-app/>.

Ealing and Charing Cross A&E Closure Plans Scrapped

The big local healthcare news this month is that the plans to close the A&E departments at Ealing and Charing Cross Hospitals have been cancelled. These closures were a part of the *Sharing a Healthier Future* plans for NW London; these plans have now been abandoned and the appropriate parts will be included in the *NHS Long-Term Plan*. There's a BBC News report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-47708750>

What Would You Do?

What would you do to improve local health services? How should the additional money the government has pledged to the NHS be spent? These are questions being asked in surveys by Healthwatch England. Find out more, and contribute to the surveys, at <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/what-would-you-do>.

Campaign to Bring Doctors Back to General Practice

The NHS is stepping up its campaign to entice doctors who have left the NHS to return. It is intended to raise the profile of a scheme that has already attracted almost 800 GPs into coming out of retirement, returning to the profession after taking a break or working in another occupation, or moving overseas. There's more at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/03/campaign-to-bring-more-family-doctors-back-to-general-practice/>

Mid-Life Screening

Public Health England are currently running a campaign to encourage women to have their cervical smear test, when invited (almost 30% never have their smear test). Screening does catch cervical cancer early and does reduce mortality. Women are invited every 3 years between the ages of 26 to 49, and every 5 years from the ages of 50 to 64.

Other screenings available include:

- Women between 50 and 70 are also offered breast screening (mammogram) every 3 years.
 - Men and women between 60 and 74 are also offered bowel cancer screening (using a home test) every 2 years.
 - Men in their 65th year are offered a one-off abdominal aortic aneurysm screening (ultra-sound); this detects dangerous enlargement of the main artery running through the abdomen.
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Discover

Discover (run by Imperial College) is a register of adults living in North West London who are interested in health research and want to find out more about health research opportunities. Health research that you may be able to participate in can range from answering surveys or having your blood tested, to testing new and innovative medical devices and phone apps, and sometimes participating in clinical trials. If you are interested you can find out more, and sign up, at <https://www.registerfordiscover.org.uk/>.

Newsletters

Finally here are the latest relevant newsletters from other organisations:

- **Healthwatch Ealing newsletter** for April can be found online at <https://healthwatchealing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Healthwatch-Ealing-Newsletter-April-2019.pdf>. It is several pages, so a copy is not attached – but do take a look at it.
- **NAPP eBulletin** for March. A copy of this is attached.

As usual these newsletters contain interesting and useful news items which I have not covered above.

More next month; meanwhile I hope to see you at the meeting on 24th.

Keith

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