

Barnabas PPG

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
Sent: 02 November 2021 14:39
To: Barnabas Patient Voices
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, November
Attachments: CQC.pdf; Voice.pdf; PPG_Minutes_20210915.pdf; InTouch.pdf

To All [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) Members ...
[Printed copies to those 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 November update for [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) members. And a warm welcome to our new members.

Coronavirus

First the usual numbers. When comparing the numbers keep in mind that the government and the Zoe Covid Study are measuring things in different ways: the government are looking at positive tests, whereas Zoe Covid research study are estimating the UK data based on the reports from the 4+ million using their app. To be honest I don't greatly trust the government's data; the Zoe data does seem to more closely reflect the data released periodically by the Office for National Statistics, which is obtained by random sampling.

02/11. Vaccination Status (% of total 12+ population)

| | % having been Vaccinated with: | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1 Dose | 2 Doses | Booster |
| Ealing | 65% | 58% | n/a |
| London | 65% | 59% | n/a |
| England | 87% | 79% | 14% |
| UK | 87% | 80% | 14% |

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/>

02/11. New Cases (per 100,000) in Last 7 Days & Compared with 7 Days Earlier

| | | |
|---------|-----|---|
| Ealing | 303 | ↓ |
| London | 265 | ↓ |
| England | 423 | ↓ |
| UK | 423 | ↓ |

Data from <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/>

02/11. Estimated Total UK Cases (millions) Compared with 7 Days Earlier

| | | |
|-------|--------|---|
| 02/11 | 1.232m | ↑ |
| 26/10 | 1.169m | ↑ |

Data from <https://covid.joinzoe.com/data>

Pfizer Jab Effectiveness

Some good news for those who have had the Pfizer jab ... the evidence seems to be that it is 90% effective against hospitalisation for at least 6 months (although overall effectiveness does decline over time, hence the

need for boosters). Report at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/05/pfizer-covid-jab-90-effective-against-hospitalisation-for-at-least-6-months>.

Additional Jabs for the Immune Compromised

Anyone who is over 12 and has a condition which affects their immune system is entitled to a 3rd dose of Covid vaccine 8 weeks after their 2nd dose. These third doses are available from a hospital service, GP or participating pharmacy. Note these are not booster doses but additional protection for the immune-compromised; these people may still be eligible for a booster in the future. Full details at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/who-can-get-the-vaccine/>.

Anti-Viral Treatmentss Against Covid

The government has secured an additional almost 750,000 doses of two anti-viral drugs for use in protecting the most vulnerable: either by reducing the severity and duration of illness or to protect against infection. The doses will be made available to the most vulnerable first, although I'm not sure how far ¾million doses will go. More details at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-secures-groundbreaking-covid-19-antivirals>.

Barnabas Patient Voices News

Barnabas Patient Voices Meetings

Our **next full meeting** will again be over Zoom on **Wednesday 17 November at 09:00**.

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81385054127?pwd=SWtiVmJPbHIETEE3aGdtaTlpNnNSUT09>

Meeting ID: 813 8505 4127

Passcode: 665045

The agenda will probably be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of September Meeting [attached]
3. Covid-19 Update and Roundtable
4. Members Feedback/Issues
5. Group 2021-23 Plan Update (inc. website & membership registration)
6. 2022 Meeting Schedule
7. Practice Updates
8. Other PPG Updates
9. Matters Arising, AOB

Please do join us if you can as this is going to include details of our activity going forward into next year.

The next two **informal calls** will be on **Friday 4 November at 12:00** and **Tuesday 30 November at 16:00**. As always both will be over Zoom; details for both are:

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279594414?pwd=VmYwODdoWGg2eTFvTlVjVlZyRmhSQT09>

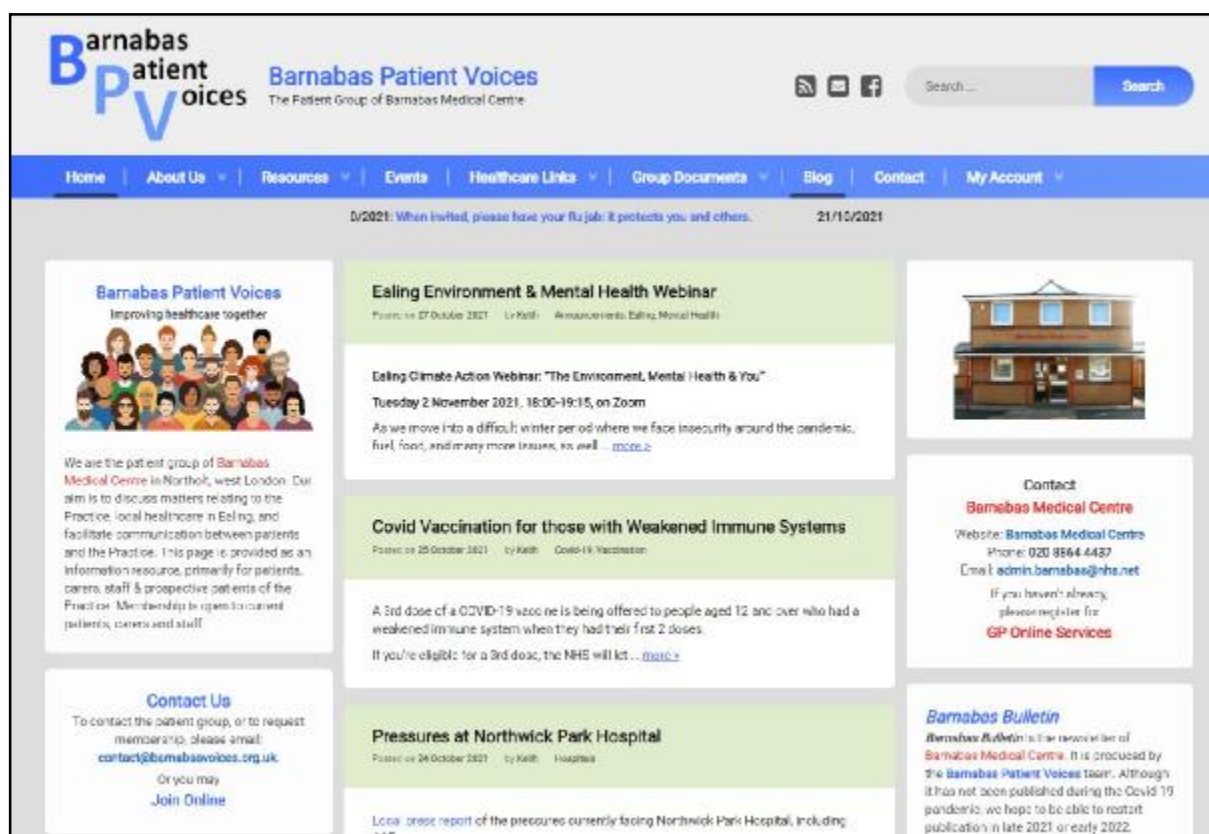
Meeting ID: 727 959 4414

Passcode: 149417

These calls are your opportunity to keep in touch, have a chat, and share the latest updates.

Website

I am pleased that at long last I can announce the availability of our website, which you can find at <http://barnabasvoices.org.uk/>. I have tried to make it clear and readable for everyone.



As you can see above, it is set up in a blog-ish style, built with WordPress, with the front page being the links into current items. More static information is held behind the blue menu bar and in the two sidebars; there is also a ticker just below the blue menu bar for the latest news.

I have been populating the site with most of the same information which I post on the Facebook page, although I have not yet done the work to link the two.

While the site is pretty much complete, there are still a few tweaks I would like to do, but they should not affect the overall look and feel.

Please visit the site, and keep visiting to pick up the latest news etc. – and please tell me if you find anything broken.

Membership Registration

I intend that we discuss membership registration at the next full meeting in a couple of weeks time. What I wish to do (and the meeting may, of course, scupper this idea) is to use the user registration facility built into WordPress for [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) membership registration; this will allow us to restrict areas of the website to registered members when necessary. (For instance, I have loaded all these monthly updates, going back years, but they are currently restricted as they are intended for members only.) I hope this will also give me a way of quickly being able to contact all members without cumbersome distribution lists – but that's for the future.

Once agreed, I intend to set up a registration for all the current patient members of the group – so all you may have to do is (re)set your password. I shall also use this as an opportunity to verify the membership list. (If you're not already a registered member and want to be grandfathered in, register with me now!)

Going forward, membership registration can be requested using the simple sign-up form on the website (it's under "My Account") which asks a couple of questions to verify your relationship to the Practice – much as is already done for our Facebook group. (Hence any member of the Facebook group can be migrated if they email me.)

I shall, of course, be keeping a small list of those members who don't have online access so that I can mail them information such as this update.

Other Things I'm Working On

- A new design for the Practice's newsletter, *Barnabas Bulletin*, with a view to restarting this early in the New Year (watch this space!).
- Completing our "Your Appointment" leaflet which we shelved at the beginning of the Covid pandemic (again, watch this space!).

• And then creating a mock-up of the Practice annual survey for electronic delivery next year.
I do also pick up gripes (and praise) from you all – in meetings, email and on Facebook – and discuss these with our Practice Manager when we meet every 6–8 weeks.
So there's always plenty to do – and **we need more people to engage and help, please!**

Local Healthcare News

Pressures at Northwick Park Hospital

It has become clear from a local news report that Northwick Park hospital is under particular pressure at present. This appears to be due to both Covid and to an increased level of people attending A&E when they have no need to. Local news report at <https://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/19667653.pressures-northwick-park-hospital-revealed-including-e/>.

General NHS News

Urgent Cancer Referrals

According to a recent study, GPs in England are failing to refer patients with 'red flag' signs of cancer early enough. Prof. Martin Marshall, chair of the Royal College of GPs, said: "GPs find themselves in a position where they are criticised for referring both too much and too little: what would help is better access to diagnostic tools in the community and additional training to use them and interpret the results, so that better informed referrals can be made". Guardian report at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/oct/05/gps-in-england-failing-to-urgently-refer-patients-with-red-flag-signs-of-cancer-study>.

GP referrals to the NHS Community Pharmacists

This is something I didn't know ... Since November 2020, GPs have been able refer patients to community pharmacies – under the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service – for minor illnesses. GPs are encouraged to use the service to ensure patients are able to access the right care, in the right place, with the right person, at the right time. The service aims to reduce the pressures on both general practice and A&E whilst offering increased convenience and choice for patients. FAQ about this at <https://www.npa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/GP-referrals-to-NHS-Community-Pharmacist-Consultation-Service-CPCS-myth-busting-September-2021-2.pdf>

Newsletters

As usual we end with a round-up of newsletters received and which may be of interest.

Voice: 4 issues from 08/10, 15/10, 22/10, 29/10 – attached

CQC monthly newsletter – attached

In Touch #121 – attached

That's all folks! More next month. Meanwhile stay safe.

Keith

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