

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
Sent: 03 January 2022 10:04
To: Barnabas Patient Voices
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, January
Attachments: PPG_Minutes_20211117.pdf; BPV_Governing_Document_2020_rev1.pdf

To All [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) Members ...

[Printed copies to those members without email]

[A copy will also be posted on our Facebook Group]

[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.]

A **Happy New Year** everyone! And welcome to the January update for [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) members.

Coronavirus

02/01. Vaccination Status (% of total 12+ population)

| | 1 Dose | 2 Doses | Booster |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Ealing | 68% | 61% | 37% |
| London | 69% | 62% | 39% |
| England | 90% | 82% | 59% |
| UK | 90% | 82% | 59% |

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

02/01. Daily New Cases (per 100,000) in Last 7 Days & Compared with 7 Days Earlier

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Ealing | 1688 | ↑ |
| London | 1777 | ↑ |
| England | 1323 | ↑ |
| UK | 1335 | ↑ |

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

02/01. Estimated Total UK Cases (millions) Compared with 7 Days Earlier

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------|
| 02/01 | 2.395m | ↑ |
| 26/12 | 1.826m | ↑ |

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

These case numbers are horrific, the more so when we realise that they are an underestimate because of (a) delays in reporting due to the holiday period, and (b) the shortage of both LFT and PCR tests. If we had anything approaching 1 in 20 of the population sick with anything else there would be an outcry – so where is it?! And it is no wonder that Ealing, and the whole of London, have the high rates they do when you look at their dreadful vaccination rates. This could all have been avoided with government action but they have done something it has consistently been too little, too late (the initial vaccine roll-out is the exception). In the understated words of Prof. Christina Pagel (@[chrischirp](#)): *Things are pretty bad and I'm sad & bewildered at lack of govt action and general levels of hopium*. "Angry" is nearer where I am, but then I'm allowed to let my emotions out to play occasionally.

What do we know about the Omicron Variant?

There's a useful, non-technical, little piece on this in the *Guardian* on 31 December. Find it at

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/31/what-do-we-know-about-the-omicron-covid-variant-so-far>.

Anti-Viral Drugs to Combat Covid Infection

Some good news! MHRA (the UK's drug regulator) has approved Pfizer's oral anti-viral drug Paxlovid for the prevention of severe Covid-19 illness in vulnerable adults, although it has to be taken very soon after becoming infected and it may not be suitable for all patients as there are some potentially important drug interactions. Paxlovid appears to be almost 90% effective. Merck's molnupiravir had already been approved for this use, but there are concerns over just how effective it

actually is. Short reports at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-59839584> and <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/31/uk-medicines-regulator-approves-pfizers-life-saving-covid-pill-paxlovid>.

Barnabas Patient Voices News

January Meeting

Our next full meeting will again be over Zoom on Wednesday 19 January at **13:30**.

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83671777106?pwd=NIV3ZGdwUUJ5QThqUzZtdGJqbFNrUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 7177 7106

Passcode: 476119

The agenda is likely to be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of November Meeting [attached]
3. Covid-19 Update and Roundtable
4. Members Feedback/Issues
5. Group 2021-23 Plan Updates
6. Governance Review [document attached]
7. Practice Updates
8. Other PPG Updates
9. Matters Arising, AOB

We also have one of our (now monthly) informal calls on Wednesday 5 January at 10:00, again on Zoom (link etc. below)

Please do join us if you can.

2022 Full Meetings

This year's 2-monthly full meetings will be on a Wednesday at 13:30; and they will continue over Zoom for the foreseeable future – apologies to those who don't like/can't do online meetings. Full group meeting dates for 2022 are:

- Wednesday 19 January
- Wednesday 16 March
- Wednesday 18 May (which will be our AGM)
- Wednesday 20 July
- Wednesday 21 September
- Wednesday 16 November

Zoom links for the meetings are in the November 2021 meeting minutes and will be circulated here as they arise. Please put the dates in your new diary.

2022 Informal Calls

We are continuing with our 30 minute, informal calls this year, but they will now be monthly. Days and times will continue to vary to allow as many as possible to attend, at least occasionally – especially as we have a fixed day and time for the 2-monthly, more formal, meetings. The scheduled dates are:

- Wednesday 5 January, 10:00
- Thursday 3 February, 12:00
- Tuesday 1 March, 14:00
- Monday 4 April, 16:00
- Wednesday 4 May, 18:00
- Wednesday 1 June, 10:00
- Tuesday 5 July, 12:00
- Monday 1 August, 14:00
- Wednesday 7 September, 16:00
- Thursday 6 October, 18:00
- Tuesday 1 November, 10:00
- Monday 5 December, 12:00

The Zoom details for all these calls remain:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279594414?pwd=VmYwODdoWGg2eTFvTlVjVlZyRmhSQ09>

Meeting ID: 727 959 4414. Passcode: 149417

Again, please put these dates in your new diary.

Email Addresses

You will have noticed that this email has appeared from a new address. As we now have our own website we can have our very own email addresses. So for [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) purposes I'm now at keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk. The addresses admin@barnabasvoices.org.uk, chair@barnabasvoices.org.uk, and contact@barnabasvoices.org.uk should also work. Please update your contact lists, and remove the old barnabas.ppg@gmail.com email address – this old address will continue to work for some time, but will eventually be sunset.

Governance Review

You'll see from the meeting agenda that it is time for our formal, 2-yearly, review of our governance (and thus the Governance Document, attached). We should start this process at the 19 January meeting and aim to agree any changes at our March meeting. If anyone has thoughts about changes, or comments on the Governance Document, then please let me know and I'll ensure they're considered.

2021-23 Plan Latest Updates

Email Addresses. See above.

Website. This is live at <http://barnabasvoices.org.uk/>, and seems to be working well. Up to the minute useful information is being posted there (as well as on Facebook), and it also contains a growing body of useful documents and links. Please use it, and spread the word. Feedback and suggestions for things to add are always welcome.

Group Membership. All those who have previously signed up, plus all the Facebook group members who signed up there before 1 November 2021, are now formally members of [Barnabas Patient Voices](#). Others will join as they fulfil the membership criteria (ie. answer the three questions).

The sign-up form is at <http://barnabasvoices.org.uk/membership-application/>, or contact me.

Practice Website. All our materials on the Practice website have now been updated.

Barnabas Bulletin. I am currently working on the content for the Practice's newsletter, *Barnabas Bulletin*, which we plan to restart in mid-February. This issue will be dedicated to a Covid and Practice catch-up.

Contributions to *Barnabas Bulletin* and suggestions for articles, are always welcome; send them to me (address below). They don't have to be polished text – just some notes will often be enough – so don't be afraid to contribute.

"Your Appointment" Leaflet. I'm still hoping that we can publish this with *Barnabas Bulletin* in mid-February.

Practice News

Room 7

The long-awaited rebuild of Consulting Room 7 at the Practice has started – and it may by now be complete, although I know there were the inevitable unexpected problems. When rebuilt the room will be accessible from the main corridor (and not from Reception) and will be a proper sized consulting room.

Local Healthcare News

Northwick Park Hospital Maternity Service No Longer "Inadequate"

It was announced just before Christmas that CQC have re-inspected Northwick Park Hospital's Maternity Service. As a result it has been upgraded from "Inadequate" to "Requires Improvement". More work is required to achieve the acceptable "Good" rating. Local paper report at <https://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/19807979.northwick-park-hospital-maternity-service-no-longer-inadequate/>.

General NHS & Healthcare News

Voice Opportunities

Although I get the weekly email of involvement opportunities from Voice, they are very repetitive and some of the opportunities are open only for short periods. I'm therefore going to stop circulating these. However you can find all their open opportunities online at <https://www.voice-global.org/public/opportunities/>; you can also sign up for their weekly email.

GP Consultations During Covid-19

There's a letter in the January 2022 issue of the medical journal *The Lancet* looking at what's actually happened with GP appointments during the pandemic. For me there were two important take-aways:

1. While GPs were offering only 60% of the face-to-face appointments in August 2021 compared with February 2020, the number of telephone consultations trebled. Combined this meant that GPs were offering around 5% (about ½million) more appointments in August 2021.
2. The use of remote appointments has levelled out some of the inequalities in access to healthcare between less deprived and more deprived areas of the country.

Read the full letter at [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/article/PIIS2589-7500\(21\)00279-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landig/article/PIIS2589-7500(21)00279-X/fulltext).

New Chairman for NHS England

The government has chosen the former banker Richard Meddings to become chair of NHS England (subject to Parliamentary scrutiny). I personally find it worrying that the government can seek to appoint someone who has no experience of working in a health service. Read the guardian report at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/dec/24/former-banker-richard-meddings-to-become-chair-of-nhs-england>

Newsletters

I've not received any useful newsletters this month, mainly I suspect due to the holidays.

I'll end with just a little nag: if you haven't already, please, please get all your Covid jabs – for your sake and ours – and please do try to avoid getting infected.

Oh, and have a good year, even if it is going to be another difficult one!

Keith

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