

Barnabas Patient Voices

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
Sent: 04 February 2023 13:03
To: Barnabas Patient Voices
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, February
Attachments: Covid_in_2022_Review.pdf; In_Touch_136.pdf; BPV_Minutes_20230117.pdf; Ealing_Cost_of_Living_Leaflet.pdf; Imperial-PERC-Newsletter-January-2023.pdf; CQC_Jan23.pdf

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

[Printed copies to those members without email]

[A copy will also be posted on our Facebook group and website]

[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 February update for [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) members.

Coronavirus

And there we were thinking we were seeing the back of Covid. But we aren't. There continues to be less and less reliable data available – the government has pretty much stopped all reporting, and testing – which leaves us with the Zoe study being about the best available data. Having seen the number of infections fall to around 835,000 a couple of weeks ago (which is the lowest it's been since at least Autumn 2021) Zoe are reporting that the number of infections has ticked up again in recent days, and the thinking is that we might be in for another peak in a few weeks time. This is supported by a rise in hospital admissions for Covid. Zoe are also reporting around 76,000 new cases each day as of 1 February.

The government have also announced that from Sunday 12 February Covid Booster jabs are no longer available. If you're eligible for a booster but haven't had it, then there's just a few days left to catch up. There's more in the issue of NHS *In Touch* which is attached.

I've also attached a copy of a thread from Twitter by Prof. Christina Pagel (Director of the Clinical Operational Research Unit at University College London) in which she looks back at the UK's Covid experience in 2022. It isn't very good reading.

[Barnabas Patient Voices News](#)

Open Meeting, Tuesday 17 January, Minutes

The minutes of our open meeting on 17 January are attached. Many thanks to Office Manager, Angela Hemingway, for deputising for Matt.

Next Open Meeting

Our next open meeting is on Wednesday 18 March, 13:00 on Zoom. I hope to present a draft plan for our 2023-2025 activity at this meeting. Full agenda to follow in my March Update. Please try to attend if you can as this meeting should be setting our path for the next couple of years.

Informal Calls

Remember that we also hold monthly, 30-minute, informal Zoom calls. These are designed to allow any who wish to keep in contact, chat socially, and share any updates. All are welcome; just drop in. The next Informal Call is on Tuesday 21 February, 12:00 on Zoom.

The dial-in information for all calls is:

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279594414?pwd=VmYwODdoWGg2eTFvTlVjVlZyRmhSQT09>
Meeting ID: 727 959 4414
Passcode: 149417

2023-2025 Plan

Thank you to all who completed the survey and provided views on where we should be focussing over the next two years. I'm in the process of trying to formulate the responses, and other ideas, into some form of plan, to present at the next Open Meeting.

Thanks you also to those who volunteered to help the group – hopefully I have now contacted you all.

Practice Meeting

Harsha (our Vice-Chair) and I are planning to meet with our Practice Manager to discuss a number of the projects we wish to pursue, including patient surveys for the Practice and a QR Code Information Pod. Unfortunately the meeting we had planned for mid-January has had to be postponed; hopefully we will now meet later this month, and appropriate pieces of work can then be added to the 2023-2025 Plan. Watch this space.

Local Healthcare News

Ealing Residents Forum

NHS Ealing are looking to establish *Health and Care Residents Forums* with regular meetings for residents to engage with NHS, Hospital Trusts, Ealing Council and the voluntary sector. The first of these meetings will be held on 7th February 2023, 16:00-18:00 at the Ealing Project in Ealing Broadway. This regular forum will be to share ideas, concerns and best practice, as well as invite views on the best ways to engage with residents and the wider public in an accessible way; it is looking to strengthen the voice of patient and public representatives, the diversity of residents in the borough and the range of views represented on the panel. If you would like to attend you can reserve a place at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ealing-residents-forum-tickets-520349518417>.

Frustration over Waiting Times

There was a local media report about the frustration of Ealing patients wanting a GP or hospital appointment; and the situation doesn't seem to be improving. Find the report at <http://neighbournet.com/server/common/ldrseanhs011.htm?site=2>.

Cost of Living Leaflet

The Practice have sent me a copy of a leaflet from Ealing Council which outlines where you may be able to get help with the cost of living. A copy is attached. Again thanks to Angela.

General NHS & Healthcare News

Time to Talk

There is a lot of help out there for anyone struggling with loneliness. And now there's a useful NHS webpage which provides some helpful ideas on what you can do, and including a long list of organisations which may also be able to help. Find this resource at <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/lifes-challenges/loneliness/>.

Delivery Plan for Recovering Urgent and Emergency Care Services

You will no doubt have seen in the media that the NHS have published their plan for recovering the emergency and urgent care services over the next two years. It is an ambitious plan which is going to require a big increase in funding and staffing, so it remains to be seen how achievable it actually is. You can find the official documents at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/delivery-plan-for-recovering-urgent-and-emergency-care-services/>.

NHS England / NHS Digital Merger

NHS England and the custodian of all the data, NHS Digital, have been merged into a single organisation, called NHS England. This puts responsibility for the NHS's data in England back into organisation which generates it. NHS press release at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2023/02/nhs-digital-and-nhs-england-complete-merger/>.

IAPT Being Renamed

IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) provides psychological therapies for people experiencing the common mental health problems of anxiety and depression. Now IAPT is being renamed as NHS Talking Therapies for Anxiety and Depression to better reflect their actual role. Again there's a bit more in the issue of NHS *In Touch* and at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/blog/whats-in-a-name-nhs-talking-therapies-for-anxiety-and-depression-the-new-name-for-iapt-services/>.

England GP Representatives Vote to Cut Core Hours

Representatives of GPs in England have voted to cut GP core hours from 08:00-18:30 on weekdays to 09:00-17:00. This vote instructs the GP representatives to negotiate with the government to have this reflected in the new GP contract which is due to come into force on 1 April 2024. There's a report at <https://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/breaking-news/england-gp-representatives-vote-to-cut-core-hours-to-9am-5pm/>.

Labour would Make GPs Salaried NHS Staff

If you thought GPs were NHS employees, you'd be wrong. All GP practices are small businesses in their own right and contracted to the NHS to provide primary care services – it's a bit like a franchise. But now there is a suggestion from the Labour Party that, if in power, they would change the GP contract and make all GPs salaried NHS staff. This would be hugely contentious, not to say complex, issue and it'll be interesting to see if it gets into a Labour manifesto. There's a Guardian report on this at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jan/07/labour-would-tear-up-contract-with-gps-and-make-them-salaried-nhs-staff>.

Newsletters

My usual round-up of useful newsletters received in the last few weeks.

- NHS *In Touch* #136 – copy attached
- Imperial Patient Experience Research Centre (PERC) Newsletter, January 2023 – copy attached
- CQC Newsletter, January 2023 – copy attached

That's all for now; more next month.

Keith

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