

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
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Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, July
Attachments: BPV_Minutes_20230520.pdf; Plan_2023-2025.pdf; CQC_Newsletter.pdf; In_Touch_141.pdf

Email to All [Barnabas Patient Voices](#) Members ...
Printed copies to members without email

A copy will also be posted on our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/barnabas.ppg>, and website, <https://barnabasvoices.org.uk/>.

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

Coronavirus

There's not really a lot to say now, as no-one is saying anything. The government have stopped testing and reporting, and vaccination is no longer available. The Zoe Covid study (<https://health-study.joinzoe.com/data>; the only useful data we have) are still reporting around 650,000 current infections, with around 40,000 new infections daily. That's the lowest rate for at least two years. Hopefully incidence will fall further over the summer, although we should probably expect a peak after the holidays and when schools go back.

Meanwhile Prof. Christina Pagel (Director of Clinical Operational Research Unit, University College, London) has written an article in *The Conversation* making a good case for the vaccination of all children. See the article at <https://theconversation.com/why-children-in-the-uk-should-still-be-offered-the-covid-vaccine-205806>.

Barnabas Patient Voices News

July Open Meeting

This month's Open Meeting is on Tuesday 18 July; 10:00hrs; over Zoom.

The Zoom details are:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279594414?pwd=VmYwODdoWGg2eTFvTlVjVlZyRmhSQ09>
Meeting ID: 727 959 4414
Passcode: 149417

The meeting agenda should be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of AGM [Minutes attached]
3. Review Current Plan and Actions [Plan attached]
4. Discuss How to Improve Meetings [Please bring ideas]

5. Member Feedback
6. Practice Updates
7. PPG Updates
8. Matters Arising, AOB

Unfortunately, due to the mid-morning timing, we've been unable to get a speaker from the Practice; we've also been unable to arrange a venue for an in-person meeting. Rest assured neither is forgotten!

Local Healthcare News

NW London Residents' Forum

NW London NHS have set out plans for the next 5 years and want to hear from you. Are the plans right? Are they looking at the right things? What do they need to change? To gauge this there is an online Residents' Forum on Tuesday 11 July, 18:00-19:30. Book a place at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nhs-north-west-london-health-and-care-strategy-residents-forum-tickets-644029969977>.

Healthwatch Ealing Annual Report

Our local Healthwatch have published their 2022-2023 Annual Report, which is online at

<https://www.healthwatchealing.org.uk/news/2023-06-27/annual-report-2022-23>.

General NHS & Healthcare News

This month there's more of a political, as opposed to care, slant to this section.

The NHS in a Nutshell

The Kings Fund have produced a series of visually orientated information pages of essential facts and figures to aid understanding of the NHS, health and social care in England. Find the front page at

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/nhs-in-a-nutshell>.

[Thanks to Ewa for the heads up on this.]

NHS Long Term Workforce Plan

The government has announced the new *NHS Long Term Workforce Plan* which aims to address many of the NHS's challenges over the coming decade or so. Being cynical I see the chances of this happening as low: the plan will have to survive across at least two General Elections and frankly pretty much every government in the last 25 years has been here and failed. However if the plan succeeds (and let's hope it does) we will have a much stronger NHS all round. NHS press release at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2023/06/record-recruitment-and-reform-to-boost-patient-care-under-first-nhs-long-term-workforce-plan/>; summary letter at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/nhs-long-term-workforce-plan/>; and the full 150 page plan at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/nhs-long-term-workforce-plan-v1.1.pdf>.

Abuse of Doctors by Patients

There was a recent article in the *Guardian* reporting on a survey conducted by the Medical Protection Society. The survey questioned almost 1000 doctors and found 56% of them had either directly experienced or witnessed abuse by patients (or their relatives). This included physical abuse and verbal, including racial, abuse. The public are urged not to take out their frustrations on doctors or their colleagues as they share the same frustrations and are acutely aware that waiting times are too long. It must also be stressed that **violence, abuse or misconduct towards NHS staff is unacceptable at any time**,

and could result in prosecution. *Guardian* report at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/22/over-half-of-uk-doctors-have-seen-or-suffered-verbal-or-physical-abuse-survey/>.

The NHS is in Crisis

In another *Guardian* piece seven NHS insiders look at the NHS's problems and what might be done to heal the wounds. Article at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/11/nhs-dying-statistic-crisis-healthcare-75th-anniversary>>

Pandemic Exposure

Another gloomy piece looks at how the government has left us "recklessly exposed" to another pandemic. Report at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/10/uk-recklessly-exposed-to-new-pandemics-expert-warns>

Hospital Waiting Times

But it isn't all gloomy news ... Apparently the NHS App and website are being extended to provide more information on, and more choice over, where to receive treatment. By giving patients more choice it has been shown that they can reduce waiting times for treatment by up to three months. NHS press release at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-choice-to-help-cut-hospital-waiting-times>

Newsletters

Finally, as always, a round-up of potentially interesting newsletters received since the last update.

- CQC Newsletter, 28 June – attached
 - Vaccine Update #339, HPV special edition – online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-339-june-2023-hpv-special-edition>.
 - NHS In Touch #141 – attached
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More next month; meanwhile enjoy this rather changeable English summer!

Keith

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