

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
Sent: 04 July 2024 11:24
To: Barnabas Patient Voices
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, July
Attachments: PA_Weekly.pdf; PPG Newsletter - June 2024.pdf; BPV_Minutes_20240518.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.

Please share healthcare news! (But not anything about your personal care.) Please be brief – just a link to a news item is fine. Email to me at keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk, or leave me a note with reception at the medical centre. Alternatively, please post it on our Facebook group.

Coronavirus

Sadly Covid infection rates are on the rise again and we seem to be in a summer wave. Should we be surprised? No, with the level of waning immunity and the relatively poor take up of the (restricted) Spring booster this should not be a surprise. How big is the wave? We don't know, because there's no testing and reporting of results, except in hospitals – and it is the number of positive tests in hospitals which tell us there's a wave happening. The wave seems to be down to the FLiRT variants KP.1, KP.2, KP.3 which are descendants of the earlier JN.1; and it appears to be hitting the elderly (especially the over 85s) hardest. But, again, we don't know for certain. Basically we're flying blind. So if you are at all vulnerable, in my opinion you would be wise to continue wearing a mask. Find the latest Situation Report (from 27 June) at <https://bhawkins3.substack.com/p/covid-situation-report-jun-27-2024> and a BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ck5g2jk0730o>

Barnabas Patient Voices News

Changed Meeting Dates

For various reasons we've had to change the dates of the next two Open Meetings. The Open Meeting dates for the remainder of this year are now:

- **Wednesday 24 July**, 13:00 on Zoom
- **Saturday 28 September**, 11:00 in person at the Medical Centre
- **Wednesday 20 November**, 13:00 on Zoom

Please put the new dates in your diaries.

We do still want to return to move in person meetings but it depends on us being able to book the church's facilities.

July Open Meeting 24/07 Agenda

The agenda for the Open Meeting on 24/07 (13:00 on Zoom) will be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of May Meeting (AGM) [attached]
3. Patient Engagement/Access Initial Report & Discussion
4. Member Feedback
5. Practice Updates
6. PPG Updates
7. Matters Arising, AOB

In item 3 I intend to report back on the initial work Purminder, Matt and I have done looking at what we need to do to improve patient engagement with, and access to, both the Practice and BPV; where we see the priorities and initial actions; and to seek further input and ideas from the group.

The Zoom access for the meeting is:

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279594414?pwd=VmYwODdoWGg2eTFvTVJlZyRmhSQT09>

Meeting ID: 727 959 4414

Passcode: 149417

If you are able, please join the meeting.

Waiting Area Noticeboards

Anyone who has been to the Practice since early June will have seen that we have finally got to revamp the waiting area noticeboards. This is something we did before Covid and which we committed to re-establish. The intention is that we keep the noticeboards up to date and review the content every few weeks. This is something we can easily do to help both the Practice and the patients. If anyone would like to take charge of this, then please get let me know – it's a good way to keep in touch with the Practice and get to chat to a patient or few.

Barnabas Practice News

CQC Inspection

Finally CQC have released the result of their virtual inspection of the Practice in January. As hoped the Practice continues to be rated as **GOOD**. The CQC report is available at

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-559846295>.

Staff Updates

As reported last month the Practice has sadly said goodbye to both Dr Fong and Dr Carey. However we have two new salaried GPs: Dr Nikunj Patel (male) and Dr Stuti Talwar (female). In addition the Practice is interviewing for a further two salaried GPs, to bring us up to seven GPs.

The Practice is also in the process of interviewing for a further two receptionists.

Local Healthcare News

PPG Awareness Survey

NW London NHS are running a short survey on PPG awareness. While it isn't the best survey I've ever seen if it helps raise awareness that will be good. The survey is at <https://bit.ly/4cmcACS>.

ICB Deficits

Many Integrated Care Boards (ICB) – essentially local NHS governors – are struggling to stay within budget. One reason is the ever escalating cost of providing healthcare and the fact that central funding is not keeping pace. They are also being asked to make, often huge, efficiency savings. A recent survey for *The Lowdown* (evidence based journalism on the NHS) found that very few actually expect to stay within budget.

Our NW London ICB is one of those affected. Apparently they have a plan to reduce the number of available beds as part of a plan to limit their 2024-25 deficit to a mere £80million, although this is on the assumption they can also reduce the number of jobs by 3000 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs). Which jobs? We don't know. But we should probably expect services to get even worse.

The Lowdown report is at <https://lowdownnhs.info/funding/icbs-tight-lipped-on-deficits-and-consequences/>.

In addition the NHS Confederation reports that “drastic measures” are going to be needed as the NHS responds to the tightest financial settlement in years. See

<https://www.nhsconfed.org/news/nhs-leaders-facing-drastic-measures-make-ends-meet-nhs-responds-tightest-financial-settlement>.

General NHS & Healthcare News

More GP Appointments in May than Before Pandemic

NHS data shows that GP teams delivered around 30.5 million appointments in May 2024, compared with an estimated 25.3 million in May 2019. That's an increase of over 20%.

Looking at the (publicly available) Barnabas data, in January-March 2024 the Practice provided 15854 appointments, up 15% on the same period in 2023.

There's a brief NHS press release at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2024/06/more-gp-appointments-in-may-than-before-pandemic/>.

Difficulty Booking GP Appointments

“Why is it so difficult to book a GP appointment?” This is the title of an article from a Bristol GP practice. Some of it is specific to them, but much of it applies everywhere and it is worth a read. The article is at <https://www.birchwoodbristol.nhs.uk/2023/07/11/why-is-it-difficult-to-book-a-gp-appointment/>.

Measles

The NHS is running a campaign to encourage parents to ensure their children are vaccinated against measles. There's information on the MMR vaccine at <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/> and a link to local information at <https://www.nwlondonicb.nhs.uk/your-health-services/immunisations-and-vaccinations/mmr>.

Whooping Cough

UKHSA seem to be playing down the current increase in Whooping Cough (Pertussis) rates. However statistician Paul Mainwood suggests that this is wrong; it isn't supported by the data; and the situation is far worse than UKHSA are implying. His article is at <https://paulmainwood.substack.com/p/whooping-cough-have-ukhsa-got-the>.

Cervical Screening

The NHS is urging more women to take up their cervical screening invitations. As of December 2023, just under 2 in every 3 of the 11 million eligible women aged 25-49 took up their cervical screening invitation. That means over 3.5 million are missing out on this screening. NHS article at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2024/06/nhs-urges-more-women-to-take-up-cervical-screening-invitations/>.

2024-25 Flu Vaccinations

Details are becoming available of this Autumn's flu vaccination programme. From September flu vaccine will be available to children (although it looks as if many 4-year-olds are excluded) and pregnant women. From October eligibility is extended to the over 65s, those in high risk groups, those in care homes and front-line social care and healthcare staff. However we don't yet have the full details of timing. For anyone interested there is more detailed information at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan-2024-to-2025/national-flu-immunisation-programme-2024-to-2025-letter> although notice that there is an amendment.

Same Day Hubs

The Chief Operating Officer of one East London GP Federation explains why he believes the NHS's plans for "same day" general practice hubs are dangerous, and why ICBs country-wide are misusing them to fill an unfunded gap. And this time it's not a rant against Physician Associates. Article at <https://www.lmc.org.uk/news/why-improving-access-with-core-hours-same-day-hubs-misses-the-point/>.



Newsletters

Here's my round-up of potentially interesting newsletters received since the last update.

- **Patients Association** weekly news from 07/06, 14/06, 21/06, 28/06 – PDF attached; as usual no printed copies due to size.
- **PPG News** from Mike Lally – attached – contains lots of interesting links!

Links / QR Codes for the Latest Publications

These will always take you to the latest versions ...

Barnabas Bulletin	https://barnabasvoices.org.uk/docs/Barnabas_Bulletin.pdf	
What's Where near Barnabas	https://barnabasvoices.org.uk/docs/Whats_Where_near_Barnabas.pdf	

That's all for this month. I hope to see you at the meeting on 24 July, meanwhile take care!

Keith



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