

## Keith Marshall

---

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>  
Sent: 05 March 2026 10:58  
To: Barnabas Patient Voices  
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, March  
Attachments: BPV\_Minutes\_20260121.pdf; Barnabas\_Stats\_Poster\_2025ALL.pdf;  
Barnabas\_Stats\_Poster\_2025Q4.pdf; PA\_News\_Feb.pdf; PPGukNews - 28 February  
2026.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 March update for **Barnabas Patient Voices** members. There isn't an overwhelming amount of news this month.

---

### Infectious Disease Update

#### Respiratory Infections

The good news this month, from the data I've seen, is that the levels of Covid, 'flu and RSV remain at low levels although the level of Covid has increased slightly over the last couple of months.

#### Measles

However there is ongoing concern over measles, especially in London. The MMR vaccination rate for 5-year-olds having both required doses of vaccine is down at around just 70%, compared with the 95% needed for "herd immunity". Almost two-thirds of this year's measles infections are in London (mostly in Enfield and Haringey – so not that far away!), with another quarter in the West Midlands. So if your child is not fully vaccinated (or you are unsure) please talk to the Practice about possible catch-up. There's an analysis from a couple of weeks ago at <https://christinapagel.substack.com/p/whats-going-on-with-measles-in-england>.

#### Mpox

Mpox cases in England are increasing, particularly in London. Infections are predominantly occurring in known risk groups, notably gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM). GBMSM who are at higher risk of exposure are reminded that they may be eligible for two doses of vaccination to protect against Mpox and help constrain spread. *Information from UKHSA.*

---

### Barnabas Patient Voices News

#### March Open Meeting – Agenda

This month's Open Meeting is on **Saturday 21 March, 10:30, in person at the Medical Centre.**

The agenda is likely to be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of November Open Meeting [attached]
3. Focussed Discussion Topic (subject tbc)\*
4. Members' Feedback
5. Practice Updates
6. Group Updates
7. Matters Arising, AOB

Please do come along if you can; this is your opportunity to hear from the Practice and provide them with feedback etc.

*\* This is something different which I want to try (and which has been postponed several times); if successful we can make it an occasional agenda item.*

*The intention is that we discuss a specific topic (chosen in advance) with the aim of finding new ideas (beyond the same old gripes). For instance discussion topics could include:*

- *How can the waiting area be improved*
- *What innovative things would we like the Practice to do*
- *What can we do to make group membership more inclusive*
- *Do we have ideas for making the Open Meetings more useful*

*I'll try to send out a reminder a week or so before the meeting, to include the confirmed agenda and the discussion topic I've drawn from my top hat.*

## **Practice "Service Report"**

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that I have been putting a poster on the waiting area noticeboards every quarter summarising the most recent three month's appointment statistics. All this data is publicly available, and I track it for our Practice (and where appropriate the comparable national figures). I intend to continue this, and will attach copies of the posters here once the data is available. So attached is the "Service Report" for the last complete quarter (October-December 2025) and one for the whole of 2025. In general the stats show that we normally do slightly better than the national average.

---

## **Barnabas Practice News**

### **Practice Staff**

Welcome back to Nurse Assistant, Palvi Kumari, who has now returned from maternity leave. She is currently working only part-time.

---

## **Local Healthcare News**

### **Medicine Wastage**

Patients are requested, and reminded, to order only those medicines they need. Nationally unused medicines cost the NHS an estimated ?300 million a year, and in North West London alone there is the potential to save around ?? million. Before (re)ordering medicines, please check what you already have at home and order only what you actually need. *Information from NWL NHS.*

### **St Mary's Hospital**

St Mary's Hospital in Paddington is due to shut its outpatient building over safety concerns with the ageing concrete structure. [*Presumably the functions will be accommodated elsewhere in the hospital – K*] The hospital are asking the public for feedback on their plans to redevelop the site. See this BBC report for more information, plus a link to the public consultation website and survey: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjwz2y3ye7po>.

---

## **General NHS & Healthcare News**

### **Same-Day Appointments**

Here we go again with the government heaping yet more unnecessary pressure on GPs by telling them they must guarantee same-day appointments for urgent cases (and track their achievement). From next month it will be a contractual requirement for GPs to monitor this and achieve it in 90% of cases. (The 10% leeway is built in to recognise that some patients may not be able to make a same-day appointment [*in which case is it actually urgent? – K*] or may call too late in the day to be realistically seen that day.) My personal view is that a GP's duty of care means they should be doing this anyway – and most probably are – so all the government are doing is beating GPs with another unwarranted big stick and imposing more work (the monitoring) which will achieve little. There's a BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm28vp0pkzro> and a government news release at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/better-access-to-gps-with-same-day-appointments-for-urgent-care>.

## RSV Vaccination

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common cause of coughs and colds. Although it usually gets better by itself, it can be serious for some babies and older adults. The government has now accepted advice to expand the RSV vaccination programme to all those aged 80 years and over and to include all residents of care homes for older adults from 1 April 2026. Up until now you were only eligible if you were aged 75 to 79, or 28 weeks or more pregnant. Government press release at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/advice-accepted-on-extending-the-rsv-vaccination-programme>.

## Primary Care in the Next Decade

Back in early January there was a post on the NHS Networks blog looking at some implications for general practice and primary care over the next decade, especially in relation to the NHS 10-Year Plan. It is worth a read. Find the article at <https://networks.nhs.uk/blog/the-next-decade-for-general-practice-and-primary-care/>.

---

## Newsletters

A round-up of potentially interesting newsletters received since the last update.

- **Patients Association Weekly News** for 06/02, 13/02, 20/02, 27/02 – attached as a single document, but as usual it too large for printed copies
- **PPGukNews** for 28 February – attached

---

**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](mailto:keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk), or leave me a note with reception at the medical centre.

---

More next month. Meanwhile, take care and enjoy the Spring sunshine. Let's hope it stays!

Keith



Keith Marshall, Chairman, **Barnabas Patient Voices**  
Phone: 020 8864 7993 – Mobile: 07847 149 417  
Email: [keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk](mailto:keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk)  
Web: <https://barnabasvoices.org.uk>

---

You have received this email as a member or friend of **Barnabas Patient Voices**.  
If you no longer wish to receive these emails, or remain a member of this group,  
please reply to this email with UNSUBSCRIBE in the Subject line.  
[Please do NOT use "Reply All".]

---