

## Barnabas Patient Voices

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From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>  
Sent: 05 May 2026 10:53  
To: Barnabas Patient Voices  
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, May  
Attachments: BPV\_Minutes\_20260321.pdf; Annual\_Report\_2026.pdf; Plan\_2025-2027.pdf; PA\_News.pdf; PPGukNews - 30 April 2026.pdf; Barnabas\_Stats\_Poster\_2026Q1.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.

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Welcome to the May update for **Barnabas Patient Voices** members.

It has been very quiet this month, so this is a relatively short update.

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### Infectious Disease Update

#### Covid & Flu

The news on **Covid** is still good, with the data suggesting that the infection rate is at an all time low. The **flu** season has also ended following what looks to be a fairly average season, and not the disaster which was predicted. Flu will doubtless return next winter, but let's hope that we have seen the last of the big Covid waves. Data from [UKHSA](#).

#### Measles

Between 1 January 2026 and 27 April 2026, there were 477 confirmed cases of measles in England, with 58% being in London (and 23% in the West Midlands) This compares with 959 cases for the whole of 2025, and 2911 in 2024 (the worst year since 2012) – so we could be in for a bumper year for Measles.

Data from [UKHSA](#).

As before, the moral for all of us is to have your vaccinations if you're eligible.

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### Barnabas Patient Voices News

#### May Open Meeting – Agenda

Our Open Meeting this month is our AGM on Saturday 16 May, 10:30, in person at the Medical Centre.

The agenda for the meeting will be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of 21 March Meeting [attached]
3. Consider 2026 Annual Report [attached]
4. 2025-27 Plan Review [plan attached]
5. PPG Awareness Week 2026
4. Member Feedback
5. Practice Updates
6. PPG Updates
7. Matters Arising, AOB

Although this is the AGM, there is no requirement to elect officers as Harsha and I were elected last year for two years.

Please come along to the meeting if you can.

### **2026 Annual Report**

You'll see from the meeting agenda above that my Annual Report is attached. I intend to put copies in the waiting area, as well as on Facebook and our website.

### **WhatsApp**

Are you on WhatsApp? If you are and you'd like us to have a WhatsApp group then let me know, please. If enough are interested I'll look at setting up a group.

### **Volunteers Wanted (1)**

"Meet the Patients" is a valuable opportunity to chat to patients in the waiting area, get feedback and explain something about how the Practice and NHS work. Currently I'm trying to run these sessions on the first Wednesday afternoon every month. However if a few more of you can volunteer 2½ to 3 hours every month or two (preferably on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) we could run some additional sessions. If you are willing and able, please get in touch.

### **Volunteers Wanted (2)**

We would also like some help with the Book Exchange in the waiting area. Noreen currently runs this, but she and I are unable to get in to the Medical Centre as often as we feel is needed. What would help is if we had a group who between them could drop in once or twice a week for a few minutes to tidy the books and check they are in the right shelf. If you could also help Noreen manage and rotate the stock that would be even better. Again if you can commit to doing this, please get in touch with me in the first instance.

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## **Barnabas Practice News**

### **Status Report**

As I have been doing for a while I've put together the quarterly status poster for January to March 2026. This shows the Practice's achievement on appointments. A copy is attached. While I'm sure we would all like it to be even better, it is worth noting that the Practice offers more appointments per patient (6.9/year) than the national average (6.3/year).

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## **Local Healthcare News**

### **Robotic Surgery**

As part of a wider rollout across local NHS hospitals Northwick Park Hospital is introducing a new robotic surgery system. A second robot will be based at Ealing Hospital; another is already in use at Central Middlesex Hospital. The technology will be used for more complex operations; it is expected to improve how surgery is carried out as well as improving outcomes.

Local media report at <https://harrowonline.org/2026/04/05/robotic-surgery-launching-at-northwick-park-hospital-this-month/>

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## **General NHS & Healthcare News**

### **A&E**

March this year is reported to have been the busiest month ever for A&E across the country with 2.43 million total attendances. This was in part driven by the reports of a meningitis outbreak, which caused a marked increase in demand.

NHS England report at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2026/04/march-was-busiest-month-ever-for-aes-amid-meningitis-outbreak/>

### **NHS Admin**

The King's Fund is, yet again, highlighting the poor state of NHS admin, with two-thirds of patients experiencing at least one administrative problem in the past 12 months – no improvement on the previous year. Additionally well

under half of patients consider the NHS is good at communicating with patients about things like appointments and test results.

King's Fund report at <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/long-reads/still-lost-system-urgent-need-better-nhs-admin>

### GP Avoidable Workload

In view of the King's Fund report, it is hardly surprising that the Royal College of General Practitioners is highlighting that GPs are beset with a significant level of avoidable and hidden work. A significant proportion of GP time is being taken up by work generated by wider system inefficiencies rather than direct patient need. This growing burden is reducing the time available for patient care, and risks undermining both appointment availability and safe care.

RCGP press release at <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/News/GP-workload>

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### Newsletters

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

- **Patients Association Weekly News** for 10/04, 17/04, 24/04 & 01/05 – attached as a single PDF (but as usual no printed copies)
  - **PPGukNews** for 30/04 – attached
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**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.

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I hope to see you on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile take care and enjoy the Spring sunshine!

Keith



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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>

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