

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
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Attachments: BPV_Minutes_20260516.pdf; Annual_Report_2026.pdf; PA_News.pdf; PPGukNews - 31 May 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 June update for **Barnabas Patient Voices** members.

Please see below for an update on our July Open Meeting.

Infectious Disease Update

For another month the news is generally good, with all the respiratory infections, including Covid, at very low levels. Let's just hope that Covid stays that way, although historically we've always had a summer wave.

The exception, as so often recently, is measles. Up to late May there have been 630 confirmed cases in England this year. Of those 630 53% (so over half) were in London with a third of those London cases in LB of Enfield (17% of the national total) – so not that far away! This compares with 959 confirmed cases in the whole of 2025.

So the message remains, if you're eligible get that vaccination.

Barnabas Patient Voices News

May Open Meeting – Minutes

The minutes of our AGM & Open Meeting on 16 May are attached; they include a summary of my Annual Report (also attached) and a review of our current 2025-27 plan.

July Open Meeting

Our July Open Meeting is on **Saturday 18 July, 10:30, at the Medical Centre.**

This meeting is being combined with a Coffee Morning and a Q&A session with our Clinical Pharmacist, Shazmeen Gulamhusein.

The current plan is:

- Coffee Morning: 10:30-12:15
- Pharmacist Q&A: 10:45-11:15
- Open Meeting: 11:15-12:00

And of course there will be tea, coffee, biscuits and hopefully cake! So there's an extra incentive to come along. I have yet to create a poster and flyers, but expect to see these appearing in the waiting area (and your email) in the next couple of weeks.

As always the meeting agenda will follow in next month's update.

Please make an effort to come along, and please also spread the word.

See above for the Coffee Morning on Saturday 18 July!

Staff News

Yet again the Practice is short of receptionists (no I don't know why; that's a personnel issue), and they have an advert out on NHS Jobs to fill two positions.

Local Healthcare News

Only Order What You Need

Nationally it's estimated that unused medicines cost the NHS £300 million every year.

There's a current London-wide NHS campaign asking patients to only order those items they actually need when requesting a repeat prescription. The aim is to encourage patients not to stockpile medicines, thus reducing waste, and helping to protect the supply chain so medicines are available for those who need them.

Key messages from the campaign:

- Before ordering your repeat prescription, please check how much of each medicine you have left.
- If you still have enough of some medicines, only order those you need more of. You can re-order the others later.
- Only ordering what you need:
 - o is safer for you, as medicines can go out of date if kept for too long.
 - o helps prevent medicine shortages, making medicines available for everyone.
 - o helps reduce waste and is better for the environment.
- If you do have any unused or out-of-date medicines, please return them to your local pharmacy for safe disposal.
- Not using some of your medicines? Speak to your GP practice about a medication review; they can help make sure your prescription is right for you.
- Check your prescription bag before you leave the pharmacy in case it contains medicines you don't need. Returning these medicines before you leave the pharmacy means they can be used by another patient.
- Only order what you need to cut waste, prevent shortages, and keep medicines available for everyone.

A&E Visits Reduced in Ealing

A pioneering project has helped reduce A&E visits by over 20% (and hospital admissions by almost 30%) among people with long-term health conditions, as a result of mental health specialists being embedded into physical health teams. The project has brought clinical health psychologists and therapists into the support for patients with chronic pain, diabetes, respiratory illness and heart failure.

Local media report at

<https://www.ealingtoday.co.uk/default.asp?section=community&link=http://neighbournet.com/server/common/eanhs029.htm>.

General NHS & Healthcare News

NHS App Update

The NHS App has been updated with a new look, and there are a number of new help videos and guides.

- What has changed? <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app/resources/new-look-nhs-app-what-is-changing>
- NHS App Home Screen (video):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3L4LcDTEi4&list=PLnhASgDToTkuPtdsIVQStTmgo4Bij5T4k&index=3>
>
- Help Using the NHS App (videos):
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnhASgDToTkuPtdsIVQStTmgo4Bij5T4k>>
- NHS App Step-by-Step Guide: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app/toolkit/step-by-step-guide>

More Services from Community Pharmacies

The government has announced £340 million to expand the range of services which community pharmacies can offer. Pharmacists who have an “independent prescribing qualification” will be able to prescribe treatments for certain ailments. The changes will be rolled out beginning this autumn, with the expectation they will reduce the number of referrals back to GPs. However the full details have not yet been announced. Government press release at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/340m-pharmacy-boost-brings-faster-care-to-your-high-street>.

Fit Notes

It seems that nobody likes Fit Notes, and now the government is trialling a scheme to scrap them and get people back to work. [Hmmm. Maybe. – Ed] BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy82pxlmmyno>.

Drug shortages

The UK continues to experience shortages of many common prescription drugs, despite efforts to strengthen supply chains. There are many reasons, but the Iraq War is one which is affecting the supply of many chemical starting materials. This is not helped by a large percentage of our drugs (or intermediate chemicals) being manufactured in India and China – moving that nearer to home will require major investment and a years long lead-time. Meanwhile pharmacies are struggling to obtain supplies of some drugs, often having to buy them at a higher price than they will be compensated by the NHS. This is putting strain on pharmacy business viability and is one factor in the closure of over 1000 community pharmacies in the last five years. An in depth look at the issues at <https://theconversation.com/drug-shortages-continue-to-be-a-problem-in-the-uk-yet-strengthening-supply-chains-alone-wont-solve-this-issue-282682>.

Single Patient Records

The government is having another attempt at creating a single health record for every patient. GPs and hospitals in England being required to share data in order to create the records. The single patient records (SPR) will be used across all healthcare providers and are part of a £10bn scheme to digitise the health service. The required legislation will be in the upcoming Health Bill. *Guardian* report at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2026/may/10/gps-and-hospitals-in-england-to-be-required-to-share-data-to-create-single-patient-records>.

Health Bill – Fact Sheets

Talking of the Health Bill ... It is large and complex piece of legislation, so the government have released a raft of fact sheets to explain various elements of the Bill. For those with the interest and stamina there's an index of all the documents at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-bill>.

Newsletters

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

- **Patients Association Weekly News** for 08/05, 15/05, 22/05, 29/05 – attached, but as usual no printed copies due to the size
- **PPGukNews** for 31/05 – 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, or leave me a note with reception at the medical centre.

More next month. Meanwhile enjoy the early summer sunshine – oh, and the rain too: we need it!

Keith



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