

E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation: Issue 20: July 2008

138. N.A.P.P. secures funding to promote patient participation

We are delighted that the Department of Health has agreed to fund a two-year project to promote high quality and effective Patient Participation Groups. Our work will be concentrated in ten Primary Care Trusts, one in each English Strategic Health Authority. Any PCTs who are committed to the development of PPGs and who would like to work with N.A.P.P. are invited to contact me (see contact details at foot of this ebulletin) to register their interest.

139. Healthcare Commission consultation

The first of two important consultations to which we draw your attention is being carried out by the Healthcare Commission. Their study will look at the ways in which health services take account of what patients and the public tell them. It will also identify what good involvement looks like, and how the Healthcare Commission could better measure this in future assessments. They will not be assessing the performance of individual trusts or practices during the study. If you are able to spare a few minutes, please go to the Healthcare Commission website where you will find more information:

<http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/healthcareproviders/serviceprovideinformation/reviewsandstudies/studies/engagingpatientsandthepublicinhealthcare.cfm>

140. Consultation on the NHS Constitution

The Government has launched a consultation on a new NHS Constitution. This is designed to enshrine a future commitment to the principles and values that underpin the NHS. It is also intended to empower patients by clarifying their rights (among other things) and to promote a more accountable service. They are very keen to receive feedback on the draft text and the consultation runs until 17th October 2008. Our members are welcome to contribute directly or to share their views with us so that we can include them in our own submission. For more details, please visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_085812

141. RCGP fact sheets

The Royal College of General Practitioners has a Patient Partnership Group in place. It also boasts a Patient Information Centre which may well be of interest to you. This includes three documents that were prepared for the Darzi review (see 140. above) on polyclinics, the cost-effectiveness of primary care and caring for patients with complex needs.

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/patients.aspx>

142. CRB Checks

We occasionally receive inquiries about Criminal Record Bureau checks and have found (along with many other organisations) that the position is unclear. The Cabinet Office has now clarified (I hope) the position across the UK in a document that defines good practice. It also addresses the correct balance between keeping vulnerable people safe and taking a proportionate approach to risk management.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/~/_media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/OTS_CRB%20pdf.ashx

143. PPG influential in decision on who runs surgery

A Cambridgeshire PPG played a central role in the decision about which organisation was to provide its primary care services in future. The PPG contributed throughout the process, including the design of the tender and the selection interviews.

<http://www.primarycaredtoday.co.uk/news/?pid=4216&lsid=4224&edname=26352.htm&ped=26352>

144. New website to promote engagement of those aged 50+

The Welsh Assembly and Government aims to put people at the centre of public services. Within this overarching framework, the Caerphilly 50+ Positive Action partnership has focused on the ability of those aged fifty or more to influence services. As part of this work, they have produced a rather impressive website which we recommend to you:

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/50plus/english/home.html>

145. The most important conversations of our lives

A recently launched report by the think tank Demos argues that the conversation between GPs and patients – the cornerstone of modern healthcare in the UK – is under enormous pressure, and must be rethought for a less deferential age in which patients have access to vast amounts of medical information. People, especially those with rare or chronic diseases, increasingly want to participate in their own treatments. GPs and policymakers must embrace patient engagement in medical treatment and healthcare. (With thanks to Quality:MK)

<http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/thetalkingcure>

146. Citizen leadership

The Scottish Government has published an interesting guide to Citizen Leadership. Developed by the Changing Lives User and Carer Forum, it is concerned mainly with social care but the principles have much wider application. It argues for a shift beyond user involvement to genuine leadership from those who are recipients of services. The document clarifies the concept of citizen leadership and establishes essential principles, standards and indicators in this area.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/17143215/0>

Kind regards

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National Association for Patient Participation

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