

E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation: Issue 26: February 2009

179. Consultation on reform of Community Health Councils in Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government is consulting on proposals to restructure and refocus the Community Health Councils (CHCs) in Wales. Under the plans, the existing nineteen CHCs will be dissolved and seven new CHCs established to cover the same areas as the proposed seven new Local Health Bodies. The seven new CHCs will then be responsible for setting up area associations to cover the same areas as the local authorities within their boundaries. The proposals would come into effect from 1st October 2009. N.A.P.P. would be pleased to hear from any Welsh affiliates who would like us to respond on behalf of our Welsh membership.

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/communityhealthcouncils/?lang=en>

180. Better Together Scotland

NHSScotland is committed to improving services based on feedback received from patients and staff. To quote from their new *Better Together* website, "it is designed to help make the NHS in Scotland a truly 'mutual' NHS, one where we all take more control of our health and become more active in deciding how our NHS is run." This philosophy is totally consistent with the founding principles of N.A.P.P. and of most patient participation groups. We are therefore exploring whether there is scope for us to work together, not least because primary care is one of their three priority areas.

http://www.bettertogetherscotland.com/bettertogetherscotland/CCC_FirstPage.jsp

181 Patients' priorities in primary care

As part of the *Better Together* programme, the Scottish Government commissioned research to understand better the views of patients and the public with respect to primary care. This allowed respondents to state their priorities across a range of issues, such as the timing of appointments, the sharing of records, the length of appointments, the prescribing of medicines, and so on. The findings can be viewed at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/24110311/0

182. Resources to promote Patient Participation Groups

Two excellent online resources are now available to support Patient Participation Groups. NHS Norfolk, one of our affiliated PCTs, has produced an extensive resource for practices that are looking to set up a PPG. This includes a super step by step guide, as well as plans to network PPGs across the county. The second resource has been developed by the British Medical Association and we hope that it will prove influential and persuade GPs to embrace patient participation at practice level.

http://www.norfolk.nhs.uk/involved/gps_ppgs/index.html

http://www.bma.org.uk/patients_public/ppgintro.jsp

183. Research into the experiences of older people using primary care

Age Concern has produced a valuable report on the experiences of older people using primary care. Their main recommendations cover the importance of allowing forward booking of appointments, together with better access to NHS dentistry and foot care. The research also highlights the dramatic reduction in consultations at home that have taken place in the last thirty years and calls for not just "care closer to home" but "care at home".

<http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/Documents/PrimaryConcernsreport.pdf>

184. King's Fund report

The King's Fund is a well-known health think tank (among other things) and has reviewed different methods of encouraging healthier lifestyles in a report entitled *Kicking Bad Habits*. One of their core messages is that certain behaviours are so ingrained that sustained and innovative methods are required to secure longlasting change. The report can be downloaded free of charge at http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/the_kings_fund_publications/kbh_final_report.html

185. And finally...

We would like PPGs to let us know if they have a website so that we can link to them from our own website. As proposed by one of our affiliates, this would be an easy way for Groups to get a very quick idea of what other Groups are doing, and to learn from each other. Please send your URL to audrey@napp.org.uk if you are happy for it to be posted on the N.A.P.P. site.



Registered Charity No. 292157

Kind regards

Graham Box

Chief Executive (01628 820326)

National Association for Patient Participation

www.napp.org.uk

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