

E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation: Issue 24: December 2008

165. Addressing Health Inequalities

The Royal College of Practitioners has produced an excellent booklet on the role that general practice can play in tackling health inequalities. Numerous examples are provided, including locating surgeries in schools, citing employment promotion schemes in general practice and addressing specific risk factors in identified communities. One of the themes of the document is that success will be greatest through partnership with patients and the local population. Patient Participation Groups may well benefit from discussing the messages with their practice to see if there are any areas for joint action.

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/pdf/Health%20Inequalities%20Text%20FINAL.pdf>

166. Real Involvement

The Department of Health has issued new guidance on the legal duties of Trusts, Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities in England and Wales to involve users of services (or their representatives) in the planning and development of services. The guidance clarifies the formal requirements and gives a host of examples of techniques that might be used to comply with this duty. The guidance runs to more than 140 pages but there is also a shorter, introductory leaflet. Both can be found at the link below.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089787

167. NHS Alliance Acorn Awards

The National Association for Patient Participation was delighted to be one of the judges of the NHS Alliance Acorn Award for patient and public involvement. There were some outstanding entries, including innovative models of lay involvement in practice based commissioning (Principia) and singing lessons as speech and language therapy for people with Parkinson's (Quivers and Quavers). The winning entry came from Bristol PCT which has trained local community groups to gather intelligence, especially from black and minority ethnic groups. This is then shared with the PCT and leads to service improvements.

<http://www.bristolpct.nhs.uk/theTrust/News/PressReleases/NHS%20Bristol%20employee%20wins%20top%20national%20award.pdf>

168. NHS Alliance TV

Still on the Alliance, you may be interested in their excellent TV channel which gathers together case studies and discussions about some of the key issues facing the NHS, and primary care in particular. The bottom option of the link below will take you to a discussion about practice based commissioning in which N.A.P.P. took part. There are lots of other clips that can be found from the menu at the bottom of the screen, including recent speeches and more details on the full set of Acorn Award winners.

<http://www.nicetv.org/Video/NHSA2008/index2.html>

169. Local Involvement Networks

LINKs are now in place across most of England. They replace the PPI Forums that replaced the Community Health Councils. They aim to draw together a wide range of individuals and community organisations to influence how services are provided and purchased locally. Follow the link below for a beautifully presented summary of the LINK and how it will function.

<http://www.networks.nhs.uk/news.php?nid=2459>

170. Information prospectus

The Department of Health has developed an information prospectus, aimed especially at people with long-term conditions. They are still consulting on the resource and N.A.P.P. has been asked to recruit PPG members to a workshop in Stoke on 16th December. Invitations have been sent to local Groups but please contact audrey.hoggard@napp.org.uk if you would like to know more. The resource can be found by following the link below. We would be interested in any comments that you may have about what you like and what does not work so well for you.

<http://www.nhs.uk/yourhealth/Pages/Homepage.aspx>

171. Patient Participation in 1981

For those of you who enjoy history...

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/pagerender.fcgi?artid=1505213&pageindex=1>



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172. National Voices Consultation

National Voices is a new organisation that has been formed to allow the voluntary sector to influence government more effectively. They have teamed up with the Royal College of Nursing to undertake a survey of the extent to which patients and the public really are involved in the government's local initiatives in the commissioning of healthcare. They have asked N.A.P.P. to publicise the research, which can be completed online from the following link (closing date is 15th December 2008).

[\[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9ilrJkBL44oLtNFseAlvxA_3d_3d\]](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9ilrJkBL44oLtNFseAlvxA_3d_3d)

173. Information on Commissioning

The NHS Information Centre has brought together a super resource for people who are interested in commissioning. It describes the commissioning "cycle" and offers materials to improve commissioning. It is rather daunting but it may be useful for lay people who have been asked to get involved in commissioning groups and decision-making. The second link below is to a specialist library on commissioning. Enjoy!

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/commissioning>
<http://www.library.nhs.uk/commissioning/>

This is our last ebulletin for 2008. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the year and to wish you all the best possible 2009.

Kind regards

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