

E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation: Issue 35: November 2009

242. [Growing Patient Participation campaign update](#)

The third [campaign update](#) has now been published. In fact, the campaign resources have grown sufficiently that they are now hosted on a newly designed website at www.growingppgs.com. You can register with the site to be kept informed as new resources appear. Equally, you may wish to review some of the case studies that have been captured. Future plans include a PPG map and, we hope, the option of a simple webpage for any PPG that would like to have one.

243. [New NAPP blog](#)

The NAPP website now includes a [blog](#) which we hope will be used by anyone with an interest in PPGs. This sits on the public facing area of our site and the system does allow comments to be posted anonymously. We are also developing forums for the members section of our site, for both PPG and PCT affiliates.

244. [Dentistry PPGs](#)

Most PPGs focus on the work of their own practice but increasingly they are getting involved with the wider commissioning of services. This includes dental services which can be a major concern for patients. The following schemes may therefore be of interest to PPGs, especially in areas where access to dentists is poor. [Wolverhampton](#) and [Southampton](#) both offer a mobile dental unit where disease rates are high or access is difficult, while [Designed to Smile](#) is a Welsh initiative whereby mobile dental units visit deprived areas. (Our thanks to Steven Towndrow at the General Dental Council for help with this article).

245. [South West Regional Conference](#)

The South West regional conference is now confirmed with Dr Michael Dixon OBE, chairman of the NHS Alliance as keynote speaker and Sir Denis Pereira Gray, NAPP Patron, as conference chair. It will take place on 2nd February 2010 at Taunton School. It is aimed at practices and PPGs in the Primary Care Trusts covered by the South West Strategic Health Authority. For more details, including a booking form, email audrey@napp.org.uk

246. Self Care Awareness Week

The first national Self Care Awareness Week takes place from the 9 – 15 November 2009 and aims to raise awareness of the information and support available to help people, especially those with long term conditions, take control of their own health and wellbeing. People living with a health condition, or who just want to learn how to look after themselves better, can ask their healthcare professional for information on the advice and support available or can visit www.nhs.uk/yourhealth.

247. Primary Care Trusts Supporting and Promoting PPGs

In recent months, we have collected [examples](#) of PCTs in England who are actively supporting their PPGs. This project was partly motivated by the surprising figure in our Members' Survey that only 25% of respondents received any help from their PCT. We would like this to change because we know that PCTs can make a significant difference to the success of the PPGs that are on their patch.

248. Making the Most project meeting

Over the past 15 months, we have been working closely with eleven PCTs who are actively promoting PPGs. A recent workshop allowed them to share ideas and progress to date and they described a wide range of interesting initiatives, relating to PPGs and to patient and public involvement more widely. Their examples are now being written up in a one-off newsletter. They included:

- the piloting of touch screen devices by PPGs and their practices to capture feedback from patients as they leave the GP surgery (Nottinghamshire County)
- a membership scheme "with a twist" that will see public representatives elected onto locality-based commissioning groups (NE Lincolnshire)
- funding for established PPGs to become more effective eg by reaching patients who are currently not involved or by using IT to reach younger people (West Sussex)
- a commitment to having an effective PPG in every practice (Knowsley and Milton Keynes)

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National Association for Patient Participation

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