



Registered Charity No. 292157

E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 49 January 2011

1. HealthWatch Development Advisory Board

Stephanie Varah our Director for National development has been invited by the DH to sit on behalf of N.A.P.P., on the **HealthWatch Development Advisory Board** which will be an external expert reference group with which the DH will work closely in developing the HealthWatch implementation programme. This is really good news as it means N.A.P.P. and PPGs will be at the centre of and able to influence how the HW proposals are put into practice. We know there is quite a lot of concern amongst PPG members that PPGs are not often recognised for their role and that it has been difficult in some areas to develop relationships with LINKs. N.A.P.P. will now be in a position to ensure that PPGs are fully involved in the way these new arrangements are taken forward.

Stephanie would like to say “Many thanks to PPG members who participated in the Department of Health PPG White Paper Workshops. I have had feedback from the DH that they were most impressed by the quality of input, knowledge & enthusiasm from PPGs & that they recognised the centrality of PPGs within the White Paper proposals.

2. RCGP Centre for Commissioning

We are currently discussing how N.A.P.P. and PPGs can contribute to a new learning programme and a series of workshops for GP commissioners currently being run by the newly formed **RCGP Centre for Commissioning**. Follow the link www.rcgp.org.uk to the **RCGP Centre for Commissioning**. On the right hand side of the page, N.A.P.P. has emphasised the importance of GP commissioners working closely with PPGs & understanding their role.

3. Feedback from PPGs Involved in Commissioning

N.A.P.P. is also keen to get **feedback from PPGs** who are getting more (or are already) involved in commissioning activities in their area and also from those who have been involved in the past. We want to encourage any PPGs who have this experience to contact Stephanie. N.A.P.P. is producing a leaflet to circulate to all GP commissioners about PPGs, how they work, their role & benefits for GP's in working closely with PPGs. If PPGs are interested in having their example in this leaflet we need them to email Stephanie asap at stephanie@varah.plus.com.

Within the next week, in the members' section of the N.A.P.P. website, there will be a questionnaire for PPGs to complete. For login details, email admin@napp.org.uk, giving your name and the name of your PPG.

4. GP Consortia 'early adopters'

The Department of Health PPE (Patient & Public Engagement) team have announce their GP Consortia 'early adopter' sites which will be testing out how best to involve patients & the public in commissioning. This is a different project to the recently

announced 'Pathfinders', who are trialling the overall GP commissioning arrangements. N.A.P.P. will be contacting the sites in both of these projects to raise awareness of PPGs & their potential role in commissioning.

5. N.A.P.P. Annual Conference "Patients Matter"

This year's conference will take place on June 11th in Bracknell, Berkshire, easily accessible from the South and West via the M3 and M4, from the West Midlands via the M40, from the M25 from the North and also the South East and from West London via the M4. The programme will be available during February and, as always, PPG members will be offered discounted rates. The programme, which will focus on issues of quality, including quality of involvement, quality of service and quality of PPGs, is being finalised and you should receive it during February with registration forms. As soon as possible, details will be published at <http://www.napp.org.uk/napp/conference-agm/>

For those of you who found Rotherham too far from Home, this is your chance to meet, share experience with and learn from other PPG members. As always, affiliated PPG members will have priority and discounted conference rates, so watch this space!

6. Virtual PPGs

People are enquiring about this topic. There are some resources available to support the development of VPPGs that which are posted on the Practice Managers Network website. I hope that we can obtain a link for N.A.P.P. members. Meantime, we would be interested to hear from PPGs which have used online membership or used the internet to support the development of the group, recruit members, conduct surveys or get feedback from patients.

7. Thanks to those of you who responded to our plea in the December e-bulletin for volunteers to contribute to or be consulted on academic research in Primary Care. We are building a register so that we have a good geographical spread. We have had further approaches from the South West and other parts of the country. If you want to add your name to the list, please email edith.todd@napp.org.uk, giving your name, contact details and PPG.

8. Reminder: All previous e-bulletins and Newsletters are available for download on our website at www.napp.org.uk. The current issue of the Newsletter is in the Members' Section for which you need the login details. Apply to edit.todd@napp.org.uk

9. Apologies for the late arrival of this bulletin.

Danny Daniels

Vice Chair

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