



## E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 116 March 2017

### 1. Latest N.A.P.P. News

#### 1. 2017 Corkill Award: N.A.P.P. PPG of the Year: Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

If your PPG can demonstrate excellent work in building and maintaining relationships and communication between patients and the practice, you could win a prize of up to £500! Applications which demonstrate innovation will be welcome. Tell us about creative and different approaches you have used in your PPG and how you have done things differently. The application form and details of this year's criteria are [here](#) in the Members' area of the N.A.P.P. website. You can also see what previous winners achieved. Please remember that

- Only online entries will be considered.
- Scanned or hand-written forms cannot be accepted Your PPG could win

#### b. Diary dates

- **24<sup>th</sup> June 2017: Annual Conference Annual Conference "Patients, Power and Partnerships"** at the Hampshire Court Hotel, Basingstoke, Hampshire. The programme includes keynote speeches from Professor Paul Hugin, President of the British Medical Association and Ruth Rankine, Care Quality Commission's Chief Inspector of General Practice. Further details of the programme and the registration form are [here](#) on the N.A.P.P. website. The event is usually over-subscribed, so make sure you don't miss out on the opportunity to connect with others from across the UK and be inspired by speakers and a range of workshops.

- **19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017: PPG Awareness week:** This is the fifth Awareness Week and is taking place later in the month than the usual to coincide with our conference. The Resource pack is now available [here](#) on the home page of the N.A.P.P. website.

### 2. Accessing and using GP services in Wales, perspective of older people

A new [report](#) by the older people's commissioner for Wales report finds significant variation in older people's experiences of accessing and using GP services in Wales, with particular issues around the appointments booking process, the accessibility of GP surgeries and the surgery environment, the time available for appointments, and community and privacy. It calls for GP services to be more responsive to older people's needs, particularly those with sensory loss, cognitive impairment or dementia, those who are carers or are vulnerable.

### 3. Evidence that continuity of GP care cuts hospital admissions

A briefing from the Health Foundation summarises research on data from over 230,000 anonymised patient records for older people aged between 62 and 82. The research found that there were fewer hospital admissions for certain conditions when the patient saw the same GP more consistently. Patients who saw their usual GP two or more times out of every ten were associated with 6% fewer avoidable hospital admissions. [More...](#)

### 4. Retirement on hold: supporting older carers

A report from charity Carers' Trust gives an insight into the experiences of older carers and highlights the need for greater support for these unpaid carers. The health of older carers and

the use of personal finances to support care needs are among the issues the report highlights. [More....](#)

## **5. Barriers to implementation of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs)**

Current ambitions for NHS and social care reform rest on the success of (STPs). The 44 STPs covering the whole of England are the main delivery vehicle for the Five Year Forward View, which aims to strengthen prevention and primary care, develop new care models that reduce the burden on acute hospitals and deliver much better value for money.

A [report](#) from the Reform think tank identifies three key barriers to STPs being successfully implemented and outlines a series of changes to overcome them. It argues that engagement with the plans are dominated by CCGs and NHS providers, with input from other parties being limited. It also finds that mixed messages regarding the focus of STPs from national bodies and a lack of leadership have left STPs struggling with the challenges of reform and implementation. The Reform think tank was founded in 2001 out of a concern that public spending increases would not transform public services or improve economic productivity in the way it was hoped.

## **6. Health and wellbeing in rural areas**

A report by the Local Government Association and Public Health England highlights the challenges for health and care provision in rural communities. The [report](#) includes case studies showcasing the ways in which local authorities in England are tackling health inequalities, improving access to services and building up community resilience.

## **7. Care Quality Commission warns of risks of buying medicines online**

The Care Quality Commission is calling on people to act with caution when considering buying medicines on the Internet. CQC's inspections of some companies that provide online primary care have found significant concerns about patient safety. Although CQC acknowledges that well-run services can offer a convenient and effective form of treatment, inspectors have found services that were too quick to sell medicines without doing enough to check whether they were appropriate, meaning that patients could be at risk of harm. [More...](#)

## **8. NHS wi-fi launch in GP surgeries**

More than five million patients will be able to access free to use wi-fi in early adopter GP practices, enabling them to link in with local health clinics and services and paving the way for future developments in digital patient care. In the first step towards roll out across the all NHS premises, NHS wi-fi is to be installed in 991 general practices across England by 31 March 2017 and patients will be able to access the Internet free of charge in their GP's waiting room, via their smart phone or tablet). [More....](#)

## **9. Get your N.A.P.P. member password now!**

N.A.P.P.'s website Member pages contain **key resources available to affiliated PPGs and CCGs**. For login details, **visit the website, click on Members and use screen instructions**. We recommend each PPG to have a group email address as the username for the login.

**10. Reminders:** Please email this bulletin to fellow members promptly. We do not send hard copies of e-bulletins. All previous bulletins can be found at <http://www.napp.org.uk/ebulletins.html>

*Edith Todd,  
Trustee,  
March 2017*