

E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation: Issue 39: March 2010

274. NAPP 32nd Annual Conference

Our 32nd Annual Conference will take place in Rotherham on 5th June 2010. We are delighted that Sir Donald Irvine, Chairman of the Picker Institute and the first GP to be elected as President of the General Medical Council, will be our keynote speaker. The Conference themes are “understanding, challenging and celebrating” and workshops will include the topics of IT, quality, patient safety and PPG good practice case studies. Other speakers are Sir Denis Pereira Gray (NAPP Patron) and Stuart Poyner (Chief Executive, NHS South Staffordshire). For more details and a booking form, please click [here](#).

275. NAPP South West Regional Conference

The South West Regional Conference was a very enjoyable and stimulating day. One hundred and ten delegates attended, organised into three workstreams, and the day started with an excellent keynote address from Dr Michael Dixon, chairman of the NHS Alliance. We are especially grateful to NHS Somerset for their support in organising the Conference, as well as to local PPG members, notably Clive Oakley, Bob Bryant, John Bradley and Barbara Tilbury for designing and delivering the day. The Conference report can be found by following this [link](#).

276. Funding for charities

I am grateful (again) to Bob Seddon who chairs the Patient Partners at the Moreton Health Clinic for flagging up the [“buy at” website](#) in case it is of interest to our members. We are conscious that more and more PPGs are developing websites or webpages and it may be a simple way of generating some additional income.

277. Making a Difference award winners

The Growing Patient Participation campaign has now written to all of the PPGs who submitted an application for the Making a Difference fund. Over one hundred and seventy bids were received requesting more than £350,000 to support the work of the PPGs involved. Case studies drawn from the 36 successful bids are being prepared by the campaign team and will be shared in a future ebulletin.

278. News from the Care Quality Commission

From April 2010, essential standards of quality and safety are being introduced gradually across all health and adult social care services in England. The Care Quality Commission (CQC), the new independent regulator of health and adult social care, will license providers if they meet essential standards. The CQC aims to provide a more dynamic system of regulation which places the views and experiences of people who use services at its centre.

NHS trusts are the first to come into the new system starting on 1 April 2010 and they will be followed in October by all providers of social care for people over 18 years of age and by providers of independent healthcare. Over the coming two years the system will include all primary care and dentists too. For more information go to www.cqc.org.uk.

279. Mapping of PPGs in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

In recent years, NAPP has carried out large scale surveys of practices and PPGs in England. These have helped to inform our approach and some of the resources that we have developed. We are now hoping to undertake a similar mapping of practices in Scotland. Discussions are well advanced for us to do this in partnership with the Royal College of General Practitioners in Scotland and, possibly, the same approach could be employed in Wales and Northern Ireland. This would be an exciting, and essential, step forward in promoting patient participation in those countries, in partnership with others.

280. NAPP to be partner in major research project

NAPP is thrilled to be a partner in a research consortium, led by Aston University, that has been awarded the contract to evaluate the implementation of Lord Darzi's blueprint for the NHS in England, *High Quality Care for All*. We will be leading on the workstream that assesses the views of lay representatives of various descriptions on the overarching project to make quality the organising principle of the NHS. For more details, please click [here](#).



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281. Consultation on opening up choice of GP in England

The NHS in England is carrying out a consultation on giving people more choice of GP surgery. The consultation is seeking views on the various options for enabling patients to register with the GP practice that best meets their needs, whether that is a practice near work, or simply a different practice near home that offers more services or longer opening hours. Proposed changes would also mean that patients can stay registered at their current practice if they move house. To have your say and find out more information you can visit the consultation [website](#).

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