



Registered Charity No. 292157



## E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Campaign Issue July 2014

### **Put Patients First: Back General Practice**

#### **This will affect the services provided by your GP practice**

- 1. Background:** N.A.P.P. joined the Royal College of General Practitioners as the prime co-signatory to this campaign, launched in November 2013 and has participated in each of the main events including a House of Commons Reception in May 2014.

General practices provide the means by which patients gain access to all levels of NHS provision and links with social care. Addressing our Annual Conference in June Dr Maureen Baker, Chair of Council of the RCGP, gave [compelling evidence](#) about the responsibilities and services which have been relocated to GP practices and the consequent increasing pressure on the capacity of practices to deliver high quality clinical care within the context of an ageing population, most of whom have multiple long-term conditions.

Many of our members are expressing concern about the situation in their practices.

We must make it clear that **the campaign is not about the remuneration received by GPs**. It is concerned with the funding of capacity in all general practices to provide staff, facilities and premises, to enable them to deliver the required services more efficiently. This should result improve access e.g. waiting times for appointments for GP and Practice Nurse appointments and also enable general practices to be more responsive to the needs of patients. It will also prevent the imminent closure of around 100 practices

The campaign is backed by [25 other organisations](#) but if it is to succeed, patients and the public must support it.

In particular, Patient Participation Groups will be key to the campaign's success by

- **Publicising the campaign** in the surgery or health centre and among friends and family. You can download posters, including one in Welsh language, flyers, copies of the petition and other resources [here](#). These include [a Presentation for waiting room screens](#),
- **Gathering signatures for the petition both online and hard copy.** Every GP practice should have received a copy of the petition booklet which has space for around 400 signatures. If every N.A.P.P.-affiliated PPG collected enough signatures to fill the book, we could add over 500,000 names to the petition. [Signing online](#) is also very easy. There are four separate petitions. Simply choose your country, scroll down and enter your details. **Deadline August 12<sup>th</sup> - only five weeks from now!**
- **Distributing the petition:** Copy a page of the petition and some information about it and ask to have it displayed in the local Post Office, pharmacy, library etc. Take it to work, and to local sports clubs, gyms or other organisations which you belong to.
- **Writing to your MP:** You can do this [online](#) by entering your postcode and simply adding you own name and address.

## 2. Facts

- Waiting times to see a GP or practice nurse are soaring
- Funding for general practice is plummeting
- Up to 100 practices in the UK — serving 700,000 patients — face closure over the next few months
- General practice conducts 90% of patient contacts in the NHS for just 8.39% of the UK NHS budget.
- Between 2005/06 and 2011/12, the UK NHS budget grew by around 18% in real terms, but funding for general practice fell by approximately 8%.

## 3. Statistics

- According to Deloitte, if current trends continue, general practice will only receive 7.29% of the UK NHS budget by 2017/18.
- The number of patient consultations in the UK is estimated to rise to an historic high of at least 441m by 2017/18 – up from at least 388m in 2013/14 and 327m in 2008/09.
- Based on the current trajectory, Deloitte says that by 2017/18 general practice in England is projected to receive just 7.28% of the NHS budget (down from 8.5%); Scotland will receive just 7.4% (down from 7.78%) and Wales will receive just 7.52% (down from 7.77%).
- Although funding projections are not available for Northern Ireland, more than three fifths of the public in Northern Ireland believe that the sheer volume of patient consultations being carried out by GPs is a threat to the level of patient care.

## 4. UK-wide Opinion Polls

The results of two recent UK-wide opinion polls of family doctors commissioned by the RCGP revealed that:

- 71% of GPs are forecasting longer waiting times for GP appointments in the next two years.
- Four in five GPs say it will become increasingly difficult to deliver continuity of care to vulnerable elderly people in the next two years.
- 49% of GPs say they feel they can no longer guarantee safe care to their patients.
- 80% of GPs say they now have insufficient resources to provide high-quality patient care.
- Nearly half (47%) of GPs say they have had to cut back on the range of services they provide for their patients in the last two years.

**5. Campaign successes** can be found [here](#):

## 6. Get your N.A.P.P. member password now!

The Members' pages of the N.A.P.P. website contain **key resources available only to affiliated PPGs and CCGs**. For your PPG's unique login details for use by all the members of your PPG, (but not to be divulged to others), **visit the website, click on Members and use the screen instructions**. The response will come from [server@serifwebresources.com](mailto:server@serifwebresources.com)

## 7. Reminders:

**Please forward this bulletin to fellow members as promptly as possible. We do not send hard copies of e-bulletins. This and all previous-bulletins are at <http://www.napp.org.uk/ebulletins.html>**

*Edith Todd*

*Trustee*

*July 2014*