



## Ebulletin 155 – August 2020

### 1. The work of the Trustees

N.A.P.P. Trustees are often working hard behind the scenes on behalf of our patients, and we realise that we often don't make it clear enough to our members work that is going on.

To that end, and as an initial response to this, we are publishing in this eBulletin, a letter sent to Matt Hancock (Secretary of State for Health and Social Care) detailed below and we shall attempt to let our members know more of the worthwhile things our Trustees are doing.

### 2. Why are PPG's Important, particularly now?

Our Chairman, Folarin Majekodunmi, has written a short letter to highlight in summary why PPGs are important and why membership of N.A.P.P is important, also making the case for engaged PPGs and their role during the current crisis.

[Read the full letter here](#)

### 3. Lack of appropriate response to letter from National Association for Patient Participation

A letter about Shielding concerns was sent to Matt Hancock from our President, Dr Patricia Wilkie, and has gone unanswered after 18 days (at the above posting date).

The letter ([the full version of which can be read here](#)) has now been resent via email.

In summary, the letter says:

"The very many patients whom we represent would appreciate an answer to the questions posed in the letter. These questions are **not** answered in any of the DHSC published documents referenced in the acknowledgment from the DHSC. The questions are:

- Can you assure us that shielded patients will be involved about the future of shielding and if not why not?
- Will you consider retaining shielding for the extremely vulnerable perhaps in a reduced format?
- Can you share with us the scientific evidence on which the decision to cease shielding was based?"

Any response that we receive will be shared with our members. If no response is made, we shall explore communicating our concerns with other parties in due course.

#### 4. Third Phase of the NHS Response to Covid-19 published on the 31st of July

Third phase of NHS response to COVID-19 Letter from Simon Stevens and Amanda Pritchard. It highlights a number of important changes, and we have put together a little summary of the key points below. ([Read the full letter here](#))

- (i) The Chief Medical Officer and the Joint Biosecurity Centre have downgraded the overall Covid alert from 4 to 3
- (ii) NHS EPPR (Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response) decided to move from level 4 to level 3, signalling a shift from a national response to a local response, with the possibility of future escalation if required
- (iii) Priorities for August:
  - a. Recovery and return of activity to pre-Covid levels
    - i. Restore full operation of all cancer services.
    - ii. Recover the maximum elective activity possible between now and winter
    - iii. Restore service delivery in primary care and community services.
    - iv. Expand and improve mental health services and services for people with learning disability and/or autism
  - b. Preparation for winter pressures.
    - i. Continue to follow good Covid-related practice to enable patients to access services safely and protect staff, whilst also preparing for localised Covid outbreaks or a wider national wave.
  - c. Working in ways that ensure that lessons are learned from first Covid peak
    - i. Workforce
    - ii. Health inequalities and prevention.
      - 1. Restore NHS services inclusively, so that they are used by those in greatest need. This will be guided by new, core performance monitoring of service use and outcomes among those from the most deprived neighbourhoods and from Black and Asian communities, by 31 October. Develop digitally enabled care pathways in ways which increase inclusion, including reviewing who is using new primary, outpatient and mental health digitally enabled care pathways by 31 March.
      - 2. Strengthen leadership and accountability, with a named executive Board member responsible for tackling inequalities in place in September in every NHS organisation
      - 3. All NHS organisations should proactively review and ensure the completeness of patient ethnicity data by no later 31 December, with general practice prioritising those groups at significant risk of Covid19 from 1 September.
    - iii. A detailed people plan has been published and an inequalities plan will follow. DHSC will also be publishing its priorities.
- (iv) To support restoration, and enable continued collaborative working, current financial arrangements for CCGs and trusts will largely be extended to cover August and September 2020. The intention is to move towards a revised financial framework for the latter part of 2020/21, once this has been finalised with Government.
- (v) Plans to streamline commissioning through a single ICS/STP approach. This will typically lead to a single CCG across the system. Formal written applications to merge CCGs on 1 April 2021 needed to give effect to this expectation should be submitted by 30 September 2020.

[Read the full letter here](#)

## 5. Five principles for the next phase of the Covid-19 response

National Voices, a coalition of health and care charities in England, have heard from a number of charities and people living with underlying conditions, and in response have developed five principles to underpin and test any policy change:

- Actively engage with those most impacted by the change
- Make everyone matter, leave no-one behind
- Confront inequality head-on
- Recognise people, not categories, by strengthening personalised care
- Value health, care and support equally

[Read the full document here](#)

## 6. National news roundup

Some of the items below will already be subject to further development and change. We have included the date and time of these that these items were published for your interest. We encourage you to keep yourselves up to date as well, by visiting the government website at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

10:09am, 4 August 2020

[Treatments for chronic pain - NICE draft guidance](#)

A number of commonly used drug treatments for chronic primary pain have little or no evidence that they work and shouldn't be prescribed, NICE has said in its draft clinical guideline on the assessment and management of chronic pain in over 16s.

10:02am, 4 August 2020

[Home delivery of medicines and appliances in impacted areas](#)

The NHS Home Delivery Service will be commissioned from both community pharmacies and dispensing doctors from 1 until 31 August 2020, to ensure access to prescription medicines for clinically extremely vulnerable patients who continue to need to shield if they live in the impacted areas of Leicester, Blackburn with Darwen and Luton.

10:51am, 3 August 2020

[Roll-out of two new rapid coronavirus tests](#)

Two new tests – both able to detect the virus in just 90 minutes – will be made available to NHS hospitals, care homes and labs.

10:49am, 3 August 2020

['Covid-friendly' cancer treatments](#)

'Covid-friendly' cancer treatments that are safer for patients during the pandemic will be expanded and extended through a £160 million initiative.

10:43am, 3 August 2020

[GPhC guidance on COVID-19 rapid antibody tests](#)

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) issued a letter to community pharmacy owners and

superintendent pharmacists on 21 July to highlight its position concerning the provision and sale of COVID-19 rapid antibody tests from community pharmacies.

10:41am, 3 August 2020

[Your Covid Recovery – new website to support people](#)

Evidence shows that a significant proportion of post COVID-19 patients are likely to have significant ongoing health problems, notably breathing difficulties, tiredness and cough, reduced muscle function, reduced ability to undertake physical activity and psychological symptoms such as PTSD and reduced mood status.

10:40am, 3 August 2020

[Cancer Research UK publish early diagnosis of cancer support guide](#)

GPs play a pivotal role in diagnosing cancer earlier and supporting the NHS Long Term Plan ambition to diagnose 75% of cancers at stage 1 or 2 by 2028.

10:26am, 31 July 2020

[RCGP survey provides snapshot of how GP care is accessed](#)

Remote consultations can provide both benefits and challenges for patients and GPs and while convenient and efficient for many, 'won't be suitable or preferable for everyone' the Royal College of GPs has said as it releases the results of a survey of its members.

11:27am, 30 July 2020

[Resuming health services during the Covid-19 pandemic: what can the NHS learn from other countries?](#)

This briefing looks at the approaches other countries around the world have taken in dealing with the pandemic.

11:15am, 29 July 2020

[The doctor will Zoom you now](#)

Remote consultations and the use of technology offer some great opportunities to make significant improvements to general practice, hospital outpatient and mental health appointments, but making the most of this opportunity means understanding the patient experience.

10:45am, 27 July 2020

[New obesity strategy](#)

New package of measures and "Better Health" campaign has been announced to help people lose weight.

10:41am, 27 July 2020

[Childcare costs for doctors to be covered in drive to boost GP numbers](#)

The NHS has launched a new scheme to encourage hundreds more doctors to return to general practice by offering help towards the costs of caring for children or family members.

10:37am, 27 July 2020

[Most comprehensive flu programme in UK history will be rolled out this winter](#)

Providers will work to vaccinate more than 30 million people during this flu season – millions more

than received it last year. Some PPGs are already working with their practices to meet the challenges of flu vaccine and the best way of supporting patients and the practice.

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