

Striving to improve your services

Hello everyone. I hope this edition of CCG News will bring home to you how important it is for us to try to give you, our patients and service users, a greater voice in how we commission your health services in Portsmouth.

Another of our big ongoing areas of work is to improve the way we care for some of our most vulnerable patients. We are currently working with those NHS organisations that we commission to provide your health services to look closely at the care pathways for frail elderly patients – to ensure they receive the very best services available. We will share details with you as soon as we can. But it's just one area of work that we will be looking to consult you about over the next few months. Thank you.

Dr Jim Hogan – Chief Clinical Officer.



Our new prospectus

A copy of our new prospectus is now available on our website.

We hope it gives you an interesting and useful introduction to our work as a CCG, including our commissioning responsibilities and priorities.

Click [here](#)



Big turn-out for our stakeholder event

We were delighted with the large turn-out from Third and voluntary sector organisations for our second major stakeholder event – **Reducing the impact of health inequalities in Portsmouth** - on 8 May.

Around 50 attendees were from voluntary organisations – and they all contributed to some terrific table discussions.

We're working on an action plan which we will share with you. Until then, please click the downloads section [here](#) to see a report headlining your feedback and our responses to your questions.



Patients getting a bigger voice

As part of our on-going commitment to give patients a bigger voice in the planning of their healthcare services, we have held our inaugural meeting of the new forum for our city-wide Patients Participation Groups (PPGs).

Nearly all our 26 member GP practices have PPGs, although a number are 'virtual' groups where they do their business by email and or online.

To read our news release, and access other information from the event, including the presentation, click [here](#)



Do you have any more questions?

There's another chance to probe us about our aims, objectives, priorities and work planning health services almost immediately after our next governing board meeting at St James' Hospital on Wednesday July 24.

The board meeting is being held from 1pm to 3pm. It will be followed, at 3.15pm, by a question and answer session where we would again invite your questions about any-related CCG business or burning health issue you might have in Portsmouth. Please either come along and ask your questions on the day or you can email, in advance, enquiries@portsmouthccg.nhs.uk



Shared vision and planning

A public sector initiative in Portsmouth has been nationally recognised for providing patients with a more seamless service – and saving hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The CCG and the city council's Integrated Commissioning Team are in-the-running to win the efficiency in commissioning support services category in the HSJ Efficiency Awards 2013 for our arrangements for continuing healthcare.

For details, click [here](#)



Stay in touch...

We are planning to start a regular Blog next month as another way that we stay in touch with you – so keep an eye on our website to read the first blog, by Dr Tim Wilkinson (pictured), who chairs our governing body.

Informing and engaging with you is obviously important for our development as a CCG and a key part of the NHS reforms. We want to involve you - our public and partners - in planning, shaping, designing and delivering services, and in setting priorities for your health services.

To find out the many ways you can get involved or to give us your views and opinions, click [here](#)



Ramadan health advice

Muslims planning to fast during Ramadan next month have been urged by the CCG to contact their GP for advice first – if they have any on-going health problems.

Portsmouth is home for more than 7,000 Muslims.

For the full story, click [here](#)



Dying Matters...

GPs in Portsmouth backed a national campaign to change attitudes and behaviour towards death, dying and bereavement - and improve end of life care.

Dying Matters Awareness Week, which ran during May, aims to help break the taboo about discussing death with loved ones.

To find out more, click [here](#)



Helping you with your health choices

There are many choices available to you across Portsmouth if you need medical treatment or advice.

If you have an urgent care need but it's not serious enough for an ambulance or to go to the Emergency Department at QA, call 111 for the help and advice you need.

To find out more about your options, click [here](#)



To contact us, please enquiries@portsmouthccg.nhs.uk