

Dear Patient and practice members,

We felt it was important to respond further to concerns raised by some patients on 13th December 2012 Islington patient participation group.

We would like to highlight that we are supportive of any patients who wish to set up and lead patient reference groups. Once the groups are set up we would be open to working with them as we do with many community groups and organisations.

As an organisation we would not set up a group which was based on elected membership. This would actually mean we would fall short of our engagement, equality, diversity and inclusion duties. It is important that at any meetings or engagement work which we undertake we have as many members of the Islington community represented as possible – including people who would be labelled as hard to reach. We have numerous projects now underway to help us tackle this issue. Its key that we enable people who currently do not have a voice to have a voice.

The patient meetings which we have set up and have been facilitating for just over a year are inclusive for all members of the Islington community (please see our plans below) and look at topics which are the most important work areas for Islington CCG. This is so patient voice is heard to develop the key work programmes and business of the CCG. Along with this, it is important we promote health and wellbeing for the local community.

Future meetings will be arranged as two locality meetings a year (Central, North or South) and two Islington community meetings a year. Patients and practices have advised they prefer the format of the Locality meetings when meeting as patient group members. Locality groups are generating a full list of health topics that they would like to look at.

The Islington PPG – had been formatted as half locality and half ‘pan.’ It was feedback to us that patients and practices did not like this format. The locality part of the meeting was too rushed and then moving into the ‘pan’ part was not welcomed. We have, therefore, decided to stop this meeting,

We will, instead, be holding an Islington community meeting. This is a meeting that will look to engage with as many people as possible within Islington – including those community members who may not be fully engaged with healthcare services or registered with a GP. We hope to work with some community groups to also gain attendance from traditionally hard to reach groups who may not have their voice heard.

We will be advertising this meeting through multiple routes such as website, practices, Voluntary Action Islington and voluntary organisations, newspaper advert and targeted work. This meeting will not be presentation-led but instead interactive, most likely it will often take the form of a workshop. The topics looked at will be the big strategic programmes that drive Islington CCG, and therefore which is imperative we obtain as many different perspectives and views points on as possible.

Islington Clinical Commissioning Group

If you would like to discuss this information further please contact Lizzie Stimson – engagement lead on elizabeth.stimson@nclondon.nhs.uk.

If you are interested in having a voice and influence on government policy please contact:

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79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Phone: 020 7210 4850 (Office opening hours 08:30-17:30 Mon-Fri)

Textphone: 020 7210 5025 (for people with impaired hearing)

Fax: 020 7210 5952

or go online at www.dh.gov.uk/health/contact-dh to fill in their online enquiries form.

Yours Sincerely

Dr. Katie Coleman

Kind regards

<<Name>>

<<Job Title>>

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