

Newsletter



Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2014 *a little later than anticipated but unfortunately there have been a lot of unexpected events in the surgery. At the end of March last year Dr Lyons retired after having some health issues and fortunately he is now keeping well and enjoying his well earned retirement.*

Dr van Spelde joined the surgery at the beginning of April last year and has proved to be a great asset, he is well respected by the patients who have met him.

At the beginning of the year came the biggest shock of all; Dr Seddon after a very brief illness passed away far too early for a man of his talents, dedication and caring. Thank goodness we had Dr van Spelde & Dr Greiss whose dedication kept the surgery running with the assistance of Suzanne Holland and her staff who have coped excellently with all the demands of a modern day doctors surgery.

We do have some good news however, a female doctor is going to join the practice in May this year. Watch this space!!

Best Wishes– Alan Blood– PPG chair



The health walks which started last month continue to attract interest and leave from the surgery at 10am every Monday morning. The walks led by Tracey 'The Trail Blazer' from Active Living last about an hour. The walks over level ground have all been checked out for safety. The regular walkers appear to be enjoying the exercise and social aspects very much. The walks are open to everyone so why not give it a try you will not regret the

The PPG continue to represent the surgery in the various patient groups and would welcome to learn of any issues you would like us to raise on your behalf. For confidential reasons we cannot deal with any personal problems.

We will deal with problems or issues which could affect a number of patients. The PPG has been fortunate to attract new members to its ranks:

Robert Whelan & Kristine Webb– Welcome to the group.

Practice Survey 2013-14

The practice's annual survey was completed and the survey results were published in early March. (there is a link to the results on the website or if you are unable to access the website you can request to see the practice hard copy).

The PPG met with the practice manager and Dr van Spelde to discuss the result findings and an action plan was agreed.

This years actions are

Open surgeries - to run a series of pilots for 6 months

Recruit a female GP- complete

Last years actions were addressed as below

Retained due to survey results

Late night surgeries—retained

Double appointments due to complex health issues—retained

Availability of a chaperone—retained

Actions due to survey results

Open surgeries - amendments made

Refurbishing of the surgery—completed

New seating— completed



Dr Katherine Foster-Female GP *has been appointed to start in May 2014. This is a very welcome development and a request that many patients have made over the years via the patient survey.*



The number of patients needing to see their GP is increasing, yet investment in general practice has reached an historical low and patient care is now being compromised.

In response, the Royal College of GPs (RCGP) and the National Association for Patient Participation (N.A.P.P.), launched the [Put patients first: Back general practice](#) campaign. We are demanding that the governments of the UK improve patient care by increasing funding for general practice from 8.39% to 11% of the NHS budget by 2017.

How your PPG can get involved in the campaign!

Write to your local politician

Tell your local politician about how an underinvestment in general practice is impacting on patient care at your local surgery. This action is quick and very effective.

[Send your letter here.](#)

Meet with politicians

Set up a meeting or encourage your surgery to host a visit with local politicians. If you need support email the campaign team.

Posters, badges and briefs

Posters and badges have been sent to every GP surgery in the UK. Can your PPG make sure these posters are on display? Briefs, with a rationale about the campaign, are also available to distribute.

[Download posters and briefs here.](#)

Campaign updates

Can your PPG encourage patients to sign-up to receive campaign updates? This will ensure patients are receiving information about the campaign from England, NI, Scotland and Wales.

[Sign up for your updates here.](#)

Events and meetings

We want to promote the campaign messages to patients, peer organisations, health practitioners and politicians. Are there events, conferences, or meetings that you can take your posters and campaign briefs to?

Team up with your GP surgery

Discuss options for your PPG and surgery to promote the campaign in your community. Could you inform your members in a newsletter, discuss the campaign at meetings or write to your local council or newspaper about the pressures facing general practice? You and your practice may also like to write a joint letter to your local politician and suggest a meeting or the option of hosting their surgery in your surgery.

Share your experiences

Patient experiences are the backbone of this campaign, proving fresh evidence about what is happening on the frontline of general practice. You could talk about how the general practice crisis has impacted on you personally, or provide examples of where investment in general practice is delivering better care for patients.

[Share your experience here.](#)

Engaging CCGs (England only)

CCGs can help reverse the decline in funding in general practice by investing in services provided by GPs locally – can your PPG raise the campaign with them and urge them to consider how they can help?

[Read the RCGP's letter to all CCGs.](#)

Contact us

To contact the London campaign team email: campaigns@rcgp.org.uk

www.putpatientsfirst.rcgp.org.uk

[#putpatientsfirst](https://twitter.com/rcgp)

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Royal College of
General Practitioners



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