

Patients in Partnership

enhancing the patient experience



Issue 1
Winter 2010

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A message from Dr Tony Vernon. Senior Partner

Most patients only meet their doctor when they are unwell, injured or in need of help. It is rarely the time to discuss the wider issues of medicine in the community or the involvement of patients in health care. This is why we, at Wallingford Medical Practice, are so pleased to welcome the **Patients in Partnership** initiative as a way of opening up the dialogue between health practitioners and their patients and encouraging better interaction outside the consultation room.

There are considerably more of you, the patients, than there are of us at the Practice and being in 'partnership' with over 15,000 patients is quite a daunting thought. Without the help of volunteers from the community it would be hard for us to establish this partnership, but the new **PiP** venture provides a platform for the two-way communication that is needed. The **PiP** newsletters, postbag and meetings will enable views to be expressed and new ideas to be explored. It is important that the Practice is made aware of issues and concerns that need addressing for the benefit of all patients.

The Partners, Associates and the surgery staff at the Wallingford Medical Practice look forward to working closely with members of the **PiP** Core Group who have bravely stepped forward to launch the project. I encourage you to give them your support. The success of **Patients in Partnership** depends upon us all working together.

I am delighted with the progress which has been made since the inception of PiP. It is never easy when a group of relative strangers come together to work as a team. We now have an active Core Group - a sort of committee - of eight members with specific roles. You can see most of them in the photograph below. We are finding our way and would welcome others into the wider group to work together with us and the practice staff in this partnership. Good organisation and planning is essential if our valuable volunteer time is going to be used effectively.

About 40% of medical practices across the country have a Patient Participation Group, and it would seem a particularly appropriate time to form a group in Wallingford, in view of the extensive changes taking place in the NHS. Of course we will also be dealing with local surgery issues and general health-related topics, as well as attending meetings organised by the NHS, County Councils and/or their agents, often on specialist subjects - see page 2.

You may have already received a recent consultation document from the surgery regarding the NHS White Paper; probably the first of many as the changes are going to develop over the next two to three years.

There is a summary of the White Paper on page 3, which I hope you will find helpful.

Talking with patients and listening to your comments, concerns and ideas are all part of PiP's role. If you look on the back page you will see that we are going to be in town on **2nd and 6th December**. Please come and meet the team. On 6th December we are organising what we hope will be an entertaining and informative evening. Come and enjoy a glass of wine, and take the opportunity to contribute your ideas for future meetings.

Chair **Chris Storey**

PiP'S CORE GROUP



Renee Thomson, Charles Harrison, Val Wolsey, Chris Storey, Sally Wehmeier
(Also Ellen Emberson, Caroline Stammers, Rhian Williams)

Give the surgery your email address to receive future newsletters
Let PiP have your ideas and concerns
SEE CONTACT LIST page 4

NHS WHITE PAPER

A summary from the Health Service Journal website www.HSJ.co.uk/white_paper

Patients will be able to choose their GP and there will be greater choice in diagnostics and maternity care. The 'any willing provider policy' means that in theory providers will be at liberty to compete with each other as long as they meet NHS standards. How will these freedoms affect the service?

Information is another central theme, with greater transparency of data underpinning the reforms. How will that influence patients and what effect will it have on standards and quality?

Outgoing Primary Care Trusts (PCT) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) have been asked to manage the transition to the new structures, but how will they cope with creating the foundations for their successors?

Some of the key highlights of the white paper include:

- The government will devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to GPs and practice teams working in consortia.
- Every GP will be a member of a 'shadow' consortium by 2011/12.
- Consortia will start taking on duties from 2012/13 and full financial responsibility from April 2013.
- Management allowances will be available to help fund commissioning.
- An independent and accountable NHS commissioning board will allocate and account for NHS resources.
- NHS commissioning board will calculate practice-level budgets and allocate these directly to consortia and will hold practices to account.
- GP consortia will include an accountable officer.
- Each consortium will hold its constituent practices to account.
- GP consortia will agree local priorities each year, taking account of the NHS Outcomes Framework.
- **GPs will need to engage patients and the public in the commissioning process.**
- Over time the DoH will seek to establish a single GP contract and funding model.
- PCTs and SHAs will be phased out.
- Patients will be able to choose which GP practice they register with regardless of where they live.
- The current performance regime will be replaced with separate frameworks for public health and social care.
- A new NHS Outcomes Framework will provide the direction for the NHS.

The government will incentivise ways of improving access to primary care in disadvantaged areas.

**At PiP's Open meeting in Spring 2011, we plan to focus on the white paper
and how the changes may affect you.**

You may recently have received an email from the surgery regarding a consultation on the white paper.

Details of this and other consultations are available on the Department of Health website:

www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingthenhs

You can also let PiP know your reactions and comments - See Contact List on back page.



PiP's Events



COME TO THE REGAL - THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER
PiP's Core Group...

*will be there all evening to talk to you
 to offer you free membership to sell you a Christmas quiz
 to invite you to join our 100 club newsletters available.*

MONDAY 6 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm

St Mary's Church, Market Place
 Wallingford

EVERYONE WELCOME!

FREE ENTRY

WINE & COFFEE

CHRISTMAS IS A RISKY TIME!

“How to cope with the unexpected”

by experienced First Aid trainer

“Keeping your home safe”

by Crime Prevention Officer

“How to avoid accidents in the kitchen”

by qualified Home Economist

HOW TO CONTACT :

PIP (Patients in Partnership) : Email: pipwallingford@hotmail.co.uk

Chair: Chris Storey 01491 838942

Wallingford Medical Practice : Website: www.wallingfordmedicalpractice.co.uk

Email: wallingford.practice@gp-k84037.nhs.uk

Tel: 01491 835577

(Appointment cancellation line: 01491 821780)

GP Out-of-hours service: 0845 345 8995

First Aid Unit: 01491 208513 No appts 8.30—18.30 Mon- Fri ex. Bank Hols

Wallingford Volunteer Centre: 01491 836345 Weekdays 9.30 - 11.30 am

Cholsey Community Car Scheme: 01491 651768 Mon, Wed & Fri 4.00 - 6.00 pm