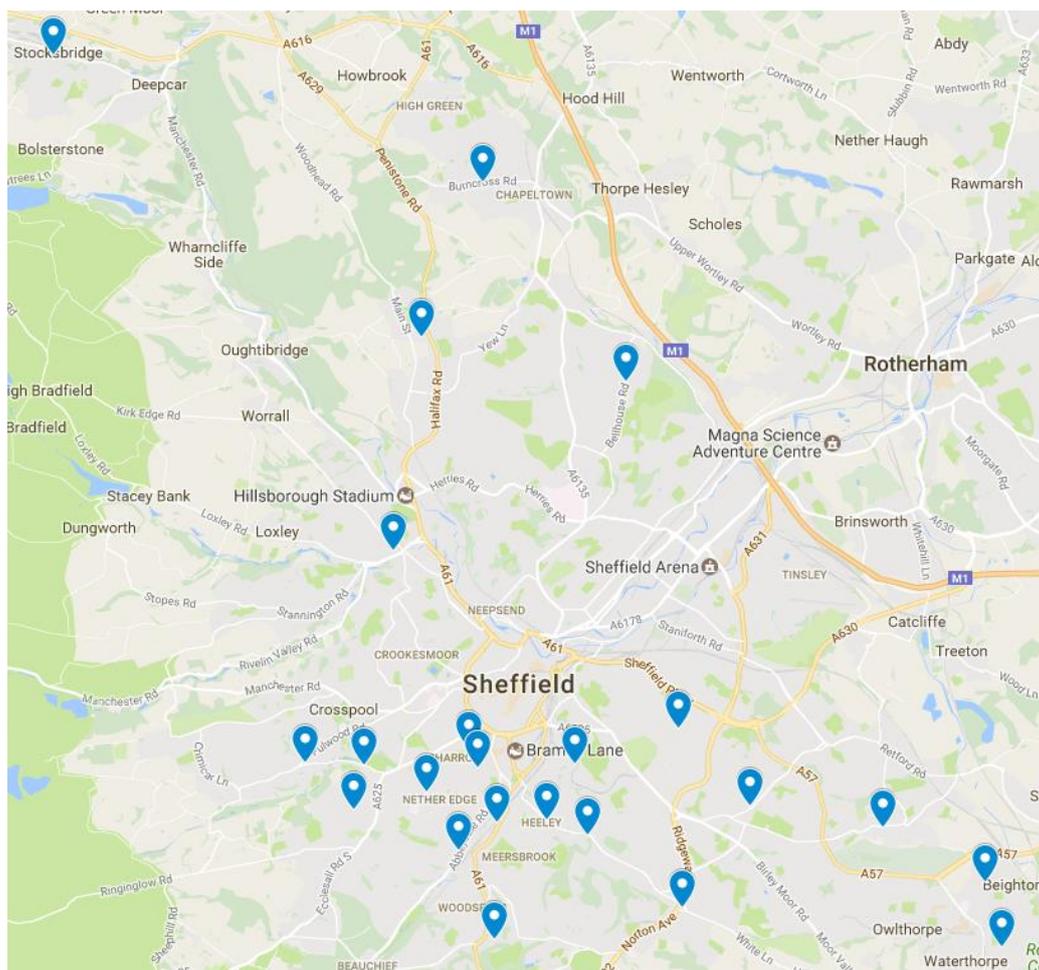


Introduction

NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group hosted the second meeting of Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) across Sheffield on 30 November 2016 between 6 and 8pm at The Circle, Rockingham Lane, Sheffield.

Forty-six people attended and we were delighted that an increased number of GP Practices were represented with members from twenty-six PPGs, from all across the City, present.



What we talked about

Transforming Primary Care

Primary care is the day-to-day healthcare that is provided outside of hospital, like GPs, practice nurses and pharmacists. Due to increases in demand for healthcare that is more complex, we must look to change how care is provided. We think this should mean doing less in hospitals and more in primary care with GP Practices being at the centre of local healthcare with services, including voluntary and community organisations, wrapped around them to support patients.

This would mean that:

- There will be a greater range of health professionals in practices to meet patients' needs.
- GPs will focus on patients with more complex needs and oversee other professionals to provide care for less complex needs.

- Health, social and voluntary sector services will work together better, with GPs leading on individual patient care within this wider system.
- GPs will work with patients and their carers to determine their support needs.
- Neighbourhood teams will arrange and deliver the support required.
- Services will be developed in neighbourhoods to meet specific local health needs.
- Patients will be more involved in managing their health.
- New technology will be used to help patients manage their health and to support closer working between health and social care.

We asked attendees:

- How do you think patients will feel about plans to make more use of other health professionals at their GP practice?
- Is your PPG/PRG working on any topics connected to these plans?
- How do you think your Patient Participation Group could be involved in the neighbourhoods approach?

Attendees talked about:

- Effectively triaging patients in primary care is central to this model working. Receptionists currently do some level of triage in practices, but this is often seen as invasive and people question their training and impartiality.
- The need to inform and educate the public about how to use primary care better to create a culture change.
- Practices and the public are not aware of Neighbourhoods. PPG members wanted to know what Neighbourhood their practice was a part of and to be kept informed. (More information about Neighbourhoods, including a map with GP practices, can be found at www.sheffieldccg.nhs.uk/our-projects/neighbourhood-resources.htm)
- Patients being resistant to seeing other health professionals instead of their GP. It was felt that young people would generally be more comfortable with this than older people.
- The system and all partners need to work together to make this work, including patients, Social Services, different practices, hospital, health trainers and other community organisations.
- Patients would want confidence and assurance over the competence and qualifications of other health professionals to handle their care. Practice Nurses are highly regarded and trusted.
- Accepted that it might be appropriate to see other health professionals, but wanted their GP as leader in their care

If you are interested in discussing Transforming Primary Care with your PPG, [you can find the full presentation here](#). We would welcome your group's involvement and feedback to help shape what Primary Care will look like in the future. Please share with us at sheccg.engagementactivity@nhs.net.

85% of attendees thought this session was useful and relevant.



Prescribing

CCGs are responsible for paying for medicines that patients receive on prescription. In Sheffield, we spend 13% of our budget on prescribing by GPs, this amounts to over £97 million spend this year. There are over 1 million prescriptions dispensed every month. Like all areas across UK, seeing continual increase in prescribing and rapidly rising medicines costs. This makes it even more important that we use NHS resources as effectively as possible to care for all patients, whilst looking at ways to improve quality.

We've already taken some steps to bring down the cost of prescribing in Sheffield, asking GPs to support some 'common sense' measures which don't significantly impact on patient care. These measures have included:

- Selecting the most cost effective option, where a less expensive medicine has been found to work equally well.
- Not prescribing medicines that can be bought over the counter more cheaply e.g. paracetamol, which costs 4x more to the NHS than over the counter

Last year in Sheffield, we had 347,000 prescriptions for paracetamol, costing the NHS £1.2 million. We currently spend around £3 million on drugs where there is a better value alternative and around £300,000 on brands that have a generic substitute. If we could manage to save even a proportion of this spend, it would help support further investment in primary care services for patients.

We asked attendees:

- Have you had any feedback from patients in your practice on prescribing?
- Do you think patients should be able to choose the brand of medication they are prescribed?
- What role do you think patients have in getting the best value from NHS resources?

Attendees talked about:

- The cost of medicines and the impact of waste
- The process of prescribing and dispensing of medicines.
- The need to inform and educate the public about the cost of medicines to create a culture change.
- The quality and effectiveness of medicines.
- The relationship between pharmacists and GP appears to be working well.

If you are interested in discussing prescribing with your PPG, [you can find the full presentation here](#). We would welcome your group's involvement and feedback to help shape prescribing in the future. Please share with us at sheccg.engagementactivity@nhs.net.

86% of attendees thought this session was useful and relevant.

PPG resources

Unfortunately, due to an overrun of the previous topics, the time allocated for this session was significantly reduced. An alternative approach was devised, but did not allow enough consideration to the resources presented. This lack of time was highlighted by direct feedback from attendees as well as numerous requests for copies of all the resources to be sent to them.

To allow attendees more time to consider these resources, and to allow more PPG members to view them, we have made them all available on our [PPG resource webpage](#). This will form part of a growing resource that PPGs can add to, to support other groups across the City. Please do let us know if you have any other resources that you would like to share by emailing us at sheccg.engagementactivity@nhs.net.

Attendees told us:

- They wanted the contact details of all the PPGs so they can make contacts themselves.
- They wanted to share good practice and have consistent approaches with other PPGs.
- Some PPGs have started to have discussions about issues affecting services wider than their practice.
- PPG members would be interested in discussing how to recruit and retain members of their groups.

61% of attendees thought this session was useful and relevant. This lower score may be down to the lack of time that was allowed for this session.

Overall, 93% of attendees felt that the meeting met the aims set out at the start.

Next steps

- We would encourage PPGs to have conversations on the topics presented at this meeting using this report and presentations available on the [PPG resource page](#).
- Where conversations have been had with PPGs or the wider practice, we would appreciate feedback from these conversations to be sent to us at sheccg.engagementactivity@nhs.net, so that we can capture these and make sure they are considered as part of commissioning decisions and help to shape future health services.
- The next 'PPGs across Sheffield' meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 16 March 2017 6 - 8pm at The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield. S1 4FW. Please put this in your diaries. We will be sending out more details and booking information soon.
- We want to make sure that these meetings are led by the PPGs and supported by the CCG, therefore if you have any suggestions about any aspect of these meetings or what topics you would like to discuss, please let us know at sheccg.engagementactivity@nhs.net.