

8 May 2006

Dear Forum member

## **PPI Review Update**

### **Progress so far**

As you know the PPI review Expert Panel chaired by Harry Cayton, National Director for Patients and the Public and Ed Mayo, Chief Executive of the National Consumer Council, was due to submit its recommendations to Ministers by the end of April. We understand that the report containing the recommendations will be made public at some point and the Minister is likely to be making an announcement on the future direction of PPI in May. This is the planning assumption we have used in preparing to organise a number of area based meetings for PPI Forum members in the first week of July.

The Expert Panel invited a small number of people, including five Forum members, to a “reality check” session where the panel discussed their “work in progress ideas”.

CPPIH was not invited to attend the meeting and there are no official outputs from the meeting.

The five PPI Forum members who attended were nominated from Forum reference groups but were attending as individuals not as formal representatives. They were:

Christine Donald	Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Forum and Recruitment Reference Group
Geoffrey Smith	University of Leicester Hospitals Forum and Healthcare Commission Reference Group
Terence Singleton	West Midlands Ambulance Forum and GMC Reference Group
Terry Hamer	Southampton University Hospitals Forum and PPI Resource Centre Reference Group
Trevor Seemann	East Sussex Hospitals Forum and National Association Reference Group

This group compared notes and have published their recollections and summary of the meeting on the KMS at **Shaping Health>PPI strategic review**

It appears that the Expert Panel’s “work in progress” ideas were:

- Establishment of Local Involvement networks of voluntary and community groups, service user, patients, patient-led and voluntary organisations (and individuals);

- They would be resourced and required to deal with the “difficult to reach” parts of the community;
- They would be independently funded through local mechanisms (Local Area Agreements were noted);
- They would have the right to be involved in the planning and commissioning of services;
- They would monitor (following the patient), obtain users views, and report their findings to the Trusts;
- They would have the right to refer matters to the OSC;
- Section 11 duties will be extended to Social Care with a requirement to involve patients and the public in the assessment of needs and planning, and in the proposed PCT Annual Prospectus;
- Regulators would be required to regulate on behalf of the public and service users.

### **CPPIH view**

The CPPIH view, discussed at a meeting with Forum members in London on 12 April, remains that patient and public involvement needs to change to adapt to the significant changes taking place in the NHS and to encourage much wider public involvement across health, social care and public health. The CPPIH proposals put forward at that meeting were not supported by Forum members. Further details of the meeting are available on the KMS at **Shaping Health >PPI strategic review**

CPPIH considers that any system for patient and public involvement should be measured against the following key principles which were originally published in November 2004:

- Ensure that the independent voice of patients and the public is heard at all levels where decisions are made;
- Aspire to involve the public in all its diversity, especially those not normally engaged;
- Work in partnership with the NHS and other stakeholders to produce continuous improvements in how services are delivered and in public health;
- Be cost effective and clearly add value to health improvement;
- Recognise that the patient and public experience is not defined by organisational boundaries; and
- Operate effectively within the wider “active citizenship” agenda.

We will continue to measure any Government proposals against these and also encourage Forum members to support these principles.

### **What happens next?**

We have been told that Ministers will be making decisions following the submission of the Expert Panel's recommendations but no firm dates or timescales for this have been published.

If there are any significant changes to the current arrangements for PPI Forums, legislation will be required and this might be expected to go through Parliament at the same time as the legislation which is expected to abolish CPPIH in the summer of 2007.

We are sure that PPI Forum members will have much to discuss once ministerial decisions are announced. Forums may want to discuss this in Forum meetings and with local stakeholders and MPs.

CPPIH would also like to respond to Forum members requests to support a national meeting of Forum members to discuss these matters. We do not know exactly when the ministerial announcements will be made and we have had many requests to give Forum members as much notice as possible of such meetings. We are also aware that it would be useful to hold this meeting before the middle of July before the Parliament rises for its summer break.

We are therefore planning on holding four area meetings for Forum members in the first week of July with one member from every PPI Forum attending – you might want to discuss this at your next Forum meeting and reserve some time in your diary for this meeting. We are not able to release information on dates yet since we are still sourcing suitable and available venues. More details of these meetings will be provided in the May Forum Focus newsletter which will be sent out from 26 May onwards. At that time you will be asked to apply for a place at the relevant area meeting. All information relating to these area meetings will be put on the KMS at **Shaping Health >PPI strategic review**. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your FSO.

There is, of course, likely to be much speculation in the process over the coming months and this will be familiar to many Forum members from the similar situation previous to the changes to CHCs.

However, there is clearly still a great deal to do now in influencing NHS trusts towards better and more patient focussed services and the hard work being carried out thousands of PPI Forum volunteers across the country is extremely valuable especially in the current challenging circumstances.

Over the coming months much change is expected for PCTs and keeping abreast of these changes will enable Forums to continue their commitment to making the voice of local people heard and ensuring that any changes made work to the benefit of the local community.

Yours sincerely



**Steve Lowden**  
**Chief Executive**