

## Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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## Design a centre of excellence in London



The Barts Health Trust in North East London is looking for patients to help it design a centre of excellence for patients living with certain kinds of chronic conditions.

It has already spoken to patients with conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease, psoriasis, lupus, and vasculitis, all of which are inflammatory or metabolic conditions. Now it would like to run workshops to explore its ideas further and is working with us to recruit patients.

If you have an inflammatory or metabolic condition and are, or have been diagnosed or treated at Barts Health Trust (which includes Newham, Mile End, St Bartholomew's, The Royal London, and Whipps Cross Hospitals), we would love to hear from you.

The workshops will be an opportunity to discuss with other patients, as well as doctors and nurses, ideas about improving Barts Health services. The aim is to understand how Barts Health can minimise the impact of a patient's condition and their care on their daily life.

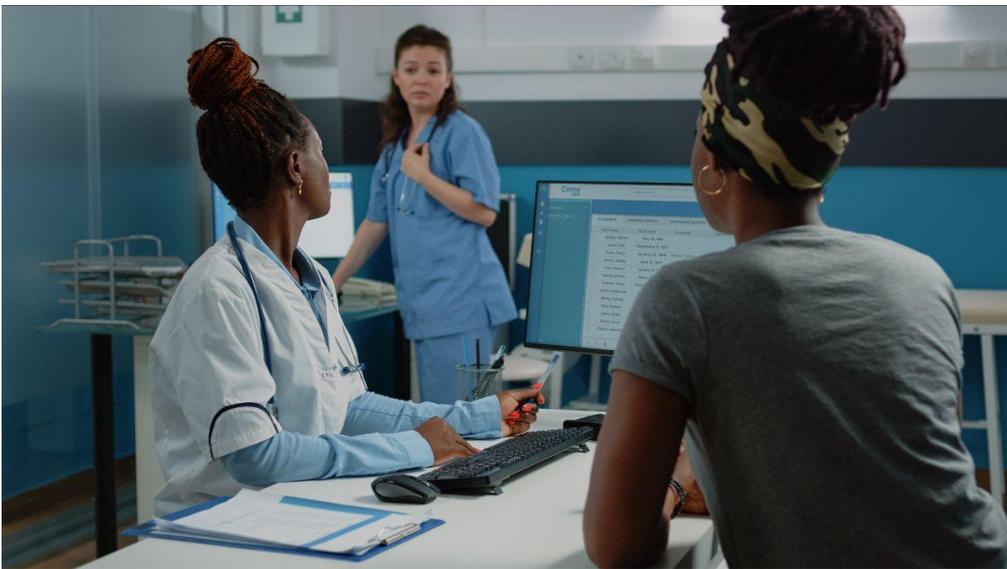
The workshops will be 2- 2.5 hours at Mile End Hospital, which is in East London.

We will offer a voucher to the value of £80 as a one-off token of appreciation for your time.

Please let us know if you're interested in taking part in the workshop by completing this [survey](#) by 23rd June. Even if you're not able to join on the specific dates or in person, please let us know if you'd like to take part as we may be able to make other arrangements.

[Register your interest online](#)

## Patients with complex health needs needed for new project



[Medical appointment photo created by DCStudio - www.freepik.com](#)

We're looking for patients with complex needs to take part in two Zoom workshops on 29th June and 13th July.

Participants will discuss poor health service communication with patients and evaluate eight examples of good practice.

These workshops are part of a bigger piece of work led by [Engage Britain](#), a charity set up to bring people together to tackle the country's biggest challenges, starting with making sure that everyone can get the [health and care](#) they need.

If you have experience of complex health needs that require ongoing support from two or more services/ agencies, such as primary, secondary, community and mental health, please get in touch. To register your interest in taking part, please fill out the this [form](#). **If you've already told us you're interested, please tell us again - we had a technical hitch with the form.** We encourage people from all sections of the community to participate. We are committed to having a diverse patient panel and particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnic, disabled, and LGBTQ volunteers.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday 21st June at 3pm. That's next week!

[Register your interest online](#)

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## Health and care data strategy published

“ The Data Saves Lives Strategy is a significant milestone in enabling us to deliver the digital transformation of the NHS, where data and technology support a health and care service fit for the future. Better access to data will be vital for the NHS recovery and patient trust and confidence must be central to this. ”

**Simon Bolton**  
CEO, NHS Digital



The Government has published its new data in health strategy, [Data saves lives: reshaping health and social care with data](#).

It sets out seven principles that will drive transformation in health and care. The Government says that to give patients confidence that their personal information is safe, secure data environments will be made the default for NHS and adult social care organisations to provide access to de-identified data for research. This means data linked to an individual will never leave a secure server, and can only be used for agreed research purposes.

The public will also be consulted on a new 'data pact', which will set out how the healthcare system will use patient data and what the public has the right to expect.

There is also an ambition for the NHS App to be a one-stop shop for health needs, the strategy commits to a target of 75% of the adult population in England to be registered to use the NHS App by March 2024.

[Read how the strategy will affect your care](#)

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## Dame Lesley Regan appointed Women's Health Ambassador



Photo courtesy of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

Dame Professor Lesley Regan has been appointed as the first ever Women's Health Ambassador for England.

Prof Regan will continue in her role as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Imperial College London St Mary's Hospital Campus, and will continue her clinical practice.

We wish Prof Regan the very best in her new role. You can read our response to the Government's consultation on the women's health strategy on our website. You may remember we ran a survey to get your opinions on the planned strategy; what you told us formed the basis of our response.

[Read our response](#)

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**Tell us what would help you campaign locally**



Image by [Dean Moriarty](#) from [Pixabay](#)

If you've not yet told us what sort of resources, tools and aids would help you campaign locally, our two-question survey is still open for you to let us know.

Please take a few minutes to fill it in. Thank you.

[Take our quick survey](#)

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**My Planned Care needs your feedback**



NHS England and NHS Improvement are looking for people who have used the [My Planned Care](#) website and are either waiting for hospital care themselves or care for somebody who is waiting for hospital care, to give them feedback about the platform.

My Planned Care provides information and guidance for people in England waiting for a hospital consultation, treatment, or surgery. This includes information about average waiting times for a first outpatient appointment or for treatment at each hospital by specialty.

The focus groups are being organised by NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit (NHS NECS) and will take place in July.

To register your interest in participating in a focus group, please fill in the survey in the link below by 24th June.

[Register your interest in taking part](#)

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**Mental health consultation closing soon**



*Let's Talk:*  
**MENTAL HEALTH**

# **How can we improve people's mental wellbeing?**

*Share your answer at:*  
**[GOV.UK/talk-mental-health](https://gov.uk/talk-mental-health)**

The consultation into the Government's 10-year mental health plan closes on 7th July and the Government is urging more men and people from Black and ethnic minorities to share their views.

Follow the link in the button below to find out more about the planned strategy and to take part in the consultation.

[Respond to the consultation](https://gov.uk/talk-mental-health)

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**From the helpline**  
**Still no face-to-face appointments**



Melissa\* called our free helpline, frustrated at being unable to get a face-to-face appointment with a GP at her practice.

She told our adviser that she needs to be examined by a GP, but the receptionist at the practice said it is only providing telephone consultations, as the surgery is still following COVID-19 guidance.

Our adviser suggested Melissa raise her concerns with the practice manager and told her that more than a year ago, NHS England wrote to all practices in England to tell them: "...practices should respect preferences for face to face care unless there are good clinical reasons to the contrary".

That letter also said: "Practices should...engage with their practice population regarding access models and should actively adapt their processes as appropriate in response to feedback."

Melissa said to our adviser: "I was very angry with my GP surgery. After you had listened and given me some advice, I feel a lot calmer. Thank you."

\*Name changed to protect privacy.

To contact our helpline team, call 0800 3457115 between 9.30am and 5pm on weekdays or email [helpline@patients-association.org.uk](mailto:helpline@patients-association.org.uk). See [our website](#) for more ways to get in touch.

And remember, we have a [range of information](#) on our website from our very popular nutrition checklist right through to understanding your medicines.

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## What our team is reading this week

[New charging reform funding to help NHS clear backlog](#)

[Hospital waiting list at 6.5 million in England](#)

[Scotland passes bill designed to boost local food procurement](#)

[Patients 'put at risk' by ambulance handover delays](#)

[Using digital innovation to prioritise patient safety during the pandemic](#)

## About Us

Our purpose is to ensure that everybody can access and benefit from the health and care they need to live well, by ensuring that services are designed and delivered through equal partnership with patients.

Our strategic focus for 2021-25 is patient partnership in the design and delivery of health and care services.

We are a registered charity raising all our own funds. If you'd like to support our work for all patients and make a difference, please [donate](#) or consider [making a regular donation](#). You can also raise funds for us at not cost to you by making us your charity of choice on [AmazonSmile](#). If you choose us, every time you buy something through the website, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price to us. Thank you.



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