

**NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group - Governing Body  
meeting – 19 November 2014**

**Public Questions**

**Question 2 (from Mr Philip Jordan)**

**Question**

Please, what is planned to help enable, facilitate and fund Developing Patient and other Participation to build on the success of the Public Participation Groups' work in North and West Dorset, such that and by when will there be a similar level of Patient and other Participation developed and in place across the rest of rural and conurbation Dorset?

**Answer - from Charles Summers, Director of Engagement and Development (tel:01305 368046/email: [Charles.summers@dorsetccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Charles.summers@dorsetccg.nhs.uk))**

Mr Jordan of Dorchester - thank you for your question. NHS Dorset CCG is committed to meaningful public engagement and it remains at the heart of our work. In the last year we have grown our Engagement and Communications team and we now have 2 officers working with our locality support teams in each of our geographical clusters (West, East and Mid). These officers also support engagement around our Clinical Commissioning Programmes and now, our Clinical Services Review.

Through a local initiative, North Dorset locality appointed its own Patient and Public Involvement Development worker, specifically to develop patient and public involvement opportunities in the locality. As a result of this appointment the locality and the wider CCG has seen a growth in interest in the work of the NHS. People from local communities have come forward to join their GP Patient Participation Groups and their locality Health Network Group, in the knowledge that these are available routes to contribute their views and influence local health care provision.

In recent months three more officers have been appointed to support the delivery of PPI opportunities in the West Dorset, Poole Central and Christchurch localities, all supported by CCG derived locality funding. These are currently part time positions and are working hard with practices in these localities to grow the number of GP practices which have PPG groups and to promote membership of these. Our PPI development leads work closely with Engagement and Communication Team colleagues to maximise opportunities for people to get involved.

The CCG has listened to feedback given by the public at some of our recent engagement events highlighting geographical inconsistencies in opportunities for people to engage with the CCG and their local GPs. We recognise that these exist and have identified areas where we need to work harder to make these available.

The Clinical Services review is a hugely important project in designing and implementing safe and sustainable health services for the people of Dorset. Keeping local people informed and supporting opportunities for them to contribute their experiences and views to it, will be one of the project priorities.

Taking all these factors into account we are actively planning to extend the roles of our existing PPI development workers to enable them to work with a greater number of practices in more localities. This is already happening in our localities in the west where PPI development workers are currently acting in advisory capacities to GP practices in localities adjoining those to which they were appointed. Where gaps remain we will also support the appointment of new officers to ensure that our work of engaging with the public is delivered equitably across the county. This is a work in progress.