

This additional contribution allows the PPG to have more of a positive impact on the practice and the local population.

### **Is there a financial commitment for anyone joining a PPG?**

There is absolutely no financial commitment involved in joining Long Bennington Medical Centre's PPG. Your time and support are what is required!

We continue to seek more volunteers to fully represent all our patients; we would especially like to hear from parents/guardians of young children as well as students. If you are interested, do please contact the practice on 01400 281220 or via our website <http://www.longbenningtonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk/ppg.aspx>



## **Patient Participation Group (PPG).**

Did you know that Long Bennington Medical Centre has an active Patient Participation Group? This is made up of ten volunteer patients, the practice Compliance & Contracts Officer and representatives from within the practice.

We meet on a regular basis to discuss how we can take on any improvements for both the patients and the practice. Minutes of our meetings are posted on the practice website. (<http://www.longbenningtonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk/ppg.aspx>).

**SO WHAT IS A PPG?** Since April 2016, all GP Practices are expected to have a patient participation group (PPG) in place and many General Practices in England now have an active PPG, Long Bennington Medical Centre being one such practice.

The LBMC PPG are always looking for people from all ages and backgrounds who are enthusiastic about influencing and improving the way that local healthcare is delivered. We have no medical training but have an interest in the services provided.

We work in partnership with the medical centre to ensure that there is a good relationship between patients, GP and other professional staff. The aim of a PPG is to represent patients' views, support diversity and to work in partnership with the medical centre to improve common understanding; help patients to take more responsibility for their health; contribute to improvements of services and quality of care and work towards better and improved communications.

Do you want to improve health and health services in your local community? Do you want to have the opportunity to have a voice and get involved in the way your health service is run? Do you want to help shape and improve services and even get involved in shaping and delivering new and improved services?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, then you may be just the person to join our Patient Participation Group. Let us hear about your experiences, views and ideas for making services better.

If you are interested, please ask for a Practice Patient Participation Group form from our reception team or go to our website. <http://www.longbenningtonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk/ppg.aspx>

The LBMC Patient Participation Group is affiliated to the National Association for Patient Participation( <http://www.napp.org.uk/>) and you will find lots of interesting information on that website.

### **Some frequently asked Questions:**

#### **I'd like to join my local PPG, but I don't have a background in healthcare. Does this matter?**

Not at all, in fact no formal training is required to be a member of a PPG. Members can often bring their own skills to the task (for example, any writing experience can be helpful in developing and contributing to a PPG newsletter), but most importantly you just need to be keen and focused on taking positive action to help the practice and the local patient population.

PPG members act as critical friends of the practice. Any PPG that would like to have training provided (for example to help in setting up education initiatives on managing common health issues) can seek help and advice from their Integrated Care Board, who may even be able to help provide any training that is needed.

#### **What are the time commitments for a member of the public?**

Involvement in our PPG includes attendance at regular meetings. Some PPG members may choose to take on additional roles, for example contributing towards the PPG information boards, supporting our patients using the practice health kiosk or being involved in a Well-being walk.