



Borders General Hospital Participation Group *Update Newsletter*

Welcome to Issue 4 of the BGH Participation Group Update Newsletter.
This Newsletter is to let you know what the Group is doing.

Membership

The Participation Group consists of 12 members of the public from across the Borders area supported by BGH staff and managers.

Frequency of meetings

The Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month in the BGH Committee Room.

Remit

The group has an extensive remit:-

- To offer a public perspective and support to the BGH on ways to improve services
- To encourage open and honest debate between staff and the public
- To support staff to be open to challenge, and not be defensive
- To focus on solutions and work alongside staff
- To support staff on ways of communicating key messages

NHS Borders Annual Review 2015

Several Group Members participated in 2 sessions of the 2015 NHS Borders Annual Review in September 2015.

In the morning session, Members took part in a lively discussion around the topic of how best to support busy GP Practices and heard an interesting presentation on the work of a Borders GP. The session also debated how best to support carers.

In the afternoon discussion, Members heard a fascinating presentation by Dr Sheena MacDonald on possible future options for the delivery of GP and Hospital medical services.

Endoscopy Group

The BGH Participation Group is represented on the BGH Endoscopy Group, which meets regularly on the last Tuesday of each month at 8.30am. All 3 Consultants, nursing staff and team administrator attend these meetings and are scheduled to last approximately one hour before the first patient is booked in. The Participation Group's Member is always made very welcome and her feedback and contribution is very much appreciated.

Recent Activity

The Group were joined at the October meeting by General Manager, Nicky Berry and Sam Whiting, Infection Control Manager. Nicky gave an extremely helpful overview of work being carried out within the BGH to improve patient discharge procedures. Sam explained that he and a Group Member were actively involved in *BGH de-clutter*. This involves removing out of date and superfluous posters within the BGH, ensuring that the public and patients have access to information which is simple and easy to read --- and clutter free!

We ask staff to bring us their ideas of how the group can help to improve things. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month and have some lively discussions! If you would like to bring an idea to the group please contact: Susan Hogg, Public Involvement Officer 01896 826701