

Working with the North West Coast NHS Innovation Agency

This month I have again participated via Zoom in a meeting of the Patient Participation and Involvement Group hosted by the North West Coast NHS Innovation Agency, representing our U3A.

There were two presentations by SMES (Small and Medium Enterprises) about their technological innovations and also a brief update on the patient safety work being carried out in the area.

The first presentation was about a mobile phone app called Hospify (www.hospify.com). This provides a secure confidential means of conversation between healthcare workers and patients or between multiple healthcare workers. No information is stored as there isn't an actual server for the system, which is the reason that confidentiality can be maintained, giving it the advantage over other communication systems such as Whatsapp. The system has been adopted by some NHS Trusts although not locally to date.

The second presentation was about a system called Connected4health (www.Connected4health.com). This provides, for example a digital pathway for patients with planned 'elective' surgery providing advice for each stage of the process from booking the date to collecting preoperative patient information and then post operative support. This reduces the number of visits that the patient needs to make to the hospital which is particularly useful with the current Covid-19 situation.

There was also an update on the current patient safety work being carried out including the development of a tool for assessing the level of deterioration particularly for care home patients who have become unwell to facilitate decisions to be made as to when hospital admission is appropriate.

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