

Working with the North West Coast NHS Innovation Agency August 2020

The August Zoom meeting of the Patient Participation and Involvement Group hosted by the North West Coast NHS Innovation Agency, in which I participated representing our U3A, saw two presentations by SMES (Small and Medium Enterprises) about their technological innovations which were:

1. A representative from Blinx solutions <https://www.blinxsolutions.com/> presented details of a GP booking system which is initially for use within the practice. It takes the user through a series of questions in order to ascertain who the most suitable healthcare practitioner for the patient would be to consult and selects convenient appointment times. It is anticipated that in future there will be an App for patients to use as part of the booking system.
2. Zen Buddy. <https://zenbuddy.co.uk/> This offers online courses for adults suffering from anxiety. The course is in the process of being updated and we are awaiting more information.

The group was also shown a prototype of a patient-held card that record lipid levels for patients who are prescribed lipid-lowering drugs for secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease. (This means for patients who have previously had an event such as a heart attack or a stroke, to reduce the risk of a further event happening.) Opinions were sought on the content of the card and it was agreed that some members of the group including me would meet again to agree on the optimal layout and content of the card.

It was also confirmed that Dr Lynn Owens from the University of Liverpool had secured further funding to enable her to continue her work on Alcohol-Related Brain Disease.

Julia Bate