

Health and Wellbeing Group April 2022 (Working with the NHS Northwest Innovation Agency)

The April meeting of the Patient and Public Involvement Senate of the Innovation Agency received four interesting talks which are described below.

1. The Alcohol-Related Brain Injury Project

Dr Lynn Owens gave an update on this project which is continuing at the Royal Liverpool Hospital. As previously reported, this is a research project into the effectiveness of the drug Baclofen in reducing the desire to drink alcohol. The potential for the benefit of this medication is good because it is not metabolised by the liver which is often damaged by the consumption of excess alcohol. Four hundred patients have been recruited between eight research centres and the trial will take place over five years.

2. Northwest Coast Clinical Networks – Cardiac Network

This has been established as a patient and public involvement group with the aim of prevention of cardiac disease and rehabilitation of those patients who have developed cardiac problems. They are looking for patients to help healthcare professionals to develop new ways of working to best improve cardiac health. There are two relevant websites; Happy Hearts (<https://www.happy-hearts.co.uk/partners>) for Cheshire and Merseyside and Healthy Hearts (<https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/healthyhearts>) for Lancashire and South Cumbria. Both sites are worth viewing.

3. An update from the Area Health Sciences Networks

We received information about how nationally, the current patient safety strategy is likely to change in the near future. More details will be provided later.

4. Barbershop blood pressure project

A project is being developed to place blood pressure testing machines in barbers' shops in Blackburn on the basis that men are less likely to present for blood pressure checks but interest could be raised in barbers' shops. The group was asked to review and suggest amendments to the promotional poster that would be used at the various locations.