

The Patients Participation Group – Leyton 6th Form College



Having worked with the Patients Association previously on 'The Gold Standard' we were delighted when Heather Eardley thought of our students to be involved in the Patients Participation Group in Waltham Forest. It meant more opportunities for the students to be experiencing different aspects of healthcare and also making valuable contributions. We were also keen to work with the Patients Association and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group Waltham Forest again.



Original students to work with Patients Association

Inspiration

At the time we were working with the Patients Association on the Gold Standard Project, Heather Eardley was working on the PPG project in Plymouth and she explained what the project was about and that student nurses had been involved. Heather thought that if this project were to run in Waltham Forest then perhaps Leyton 6th Form College students could be involved. In September a meeting was held and the college linked up with the project manager, Frances Hollwey. It was from here that the idea started to turn into a reality.

Development



Frances and the lead for LSC (Kyla) thought very carefully about how to recruit students, we advertised in the college and created an application form. Frances came into the college to shortlist. We shortlisted 23 students into 12 practices. Each student received detailed feedback about how to improve their application forms in the future. Kyla and Frances then married up students with a practice and the students have begun their initial work with PPGs and we are hoping to gain feedback in the new academic year.

Challenges and Support: As with any project involving students in health care there are many challenges. Our students did not know what to expect in the PPGs but the student case studies from Plymouth were excellent preparation for them, one of the student nurses also offered to mentor the students via email. Some of the challenges involved GP practices struggling to recruit PPG member so therefore couldn't involve students. However, with the support of the Patients Association we have been able to keep all 23 students involved.