60 second interview with Steve Bramwell, Health Champion Lead, NHS Newcastle

Please provide a short biography

I’m celebrating working in the NHS for 10 years this year having joined in 2007 from the local authority. Initially my NHS career was focused on sexual health working in a variety of roles such as managing a sex and relationships education team, to the HIV lead. I left sexual health and provider NHS in 2014 when I joined NHS England and later joined Newcastle Gateshead CCG in 2016.

Outside of my NHS career I’m also a trustee for a charity, chair of trustees for another charity and volunteer my time with a local lottery ran project.

What are the biggest changes you have seen in general practice over the last five years?

We are well aware of the pressures and challenges General Practice is facing (and the reasons for this) but I have seen practices grouping together, entrepreneurial behaviour in order to meet the pressures and challenges and achieve great patient outcomes.

What do you think are the three biggest challenges facing general practices right now?

1. Demand on workload and time
2. Changes in other systems/services (be that within health or external such as benefits caps)
3. Uncertainty around the future

What sessions (other than your own) are you most looking forward to at Management in Practice Newcastle?

How to get the most out of patient participation groups: More than just a box tick exercise
I think this is an area that can be developed so much more.

What do you hope attendees of Management in Practice will take away from your presentation?

I hope attendees will take away the reasons why investing time and resource in social prescribing is worth while – this might be new energy or renewed energy. Also understanding that this isn’t done alone and needs to be a shared approach to a shared challenge.
Why do you feel it is important for practice teams to attend training events?

We should never stop learning and training events give us this, however, often the sharing is just as (more) important. Coming together for conversations and to form relationships to build your support networks means we aren’t flying solo and work out who can help us.

And finally, if you could choose any other job to have, what would it be?

A commercial airline pilot – I have a passion for aviation.

Steven will be delivering his session, Social prescribing: A local view, at Management in Practice Newcastle on 27th June at 14:25, don’t miss it.

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