



# Using technology to facilitate small group forming and learning for PBSGL

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## Background

Practice Based Small Group Learning (PBSGL) is a well-established form of continuing professional development (CPD) for General Practitioners (GPs) widely used in Canada and Scotland. Over the last few years interest in using it in England has grown. In both Canada and Scotland there are dedicated administration teams which manage aspects of the scheme, including linking groups of GPs. In Wessex we were keen to set up a further hub, but lacked resources to match people to groups, manage subscriptions or module distribution, so we set about creating a website to facilitate this and enable users to manage their participation for themselves.

## Summary of work

A bespoke website was created to perform these actions, without the requirement of much maintenance. It took several months of design and testing before it went live on the internet at the end of 2013.

## Outcome

The website has now been live for nearly two years. Anecdotally, it is felt to be very user friendly. Initially, as expected, there were some issues which had not been foreseen but these were easily overcome. The background functionality of the website is quite complicated with 5 levels of 'user': visitor, member, subscribed, facilitator and administrator.

Home Modules Meetings Training Learning Contact

Find a Group

Your Postcode: SO238TQ Search

Group Name	Distance	
Southampton/Winchester group	1 miles	<a href="#">View</a>
Southampton ST3s and friends	10 miles	<a href="#">View</a>
Southampton East PBSGL	10 miles	<a href="#">View</a>
Lords of Southampton	10 miles	<a href="#">View</a>
Hippies MRCGP	11 miles	<a href="#">View</a>
Basingstoke Firsts	21 miles	<a href="#">View</a>
Lymington Group	24 miles	<a href="#">View</a>
Salisbury New Inn	29 miles	<a href="#">View</a>
Salisbury Tuesday Group	30 miles	<a href="#">View</a>
St Leonards Group	37 miles	<a href="#">View</a>

Figure 1. Finding a local PBSGL group

The website performs the majority of the key functions that would normally be undertaken by an administrator. Most importantly it helps to facilitate doctors getting together to form small groups by using a map and search function. Figure 1 demonstrates how this appears to the user, and by clicking on a group a message can be sent to the group facilitator to ask to join that group.

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Test

Date: 23/02/2014

Times: 9-10

Group: [Test Winchester Group](#)

Module: [Leadership](#)

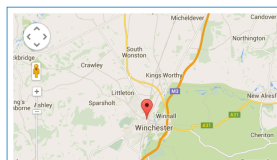
Attendance: You attended this meeting [Change to: I was unable to attend](#)

Learning: [Add a reflection](#)

Meeting Location

Address: Hants

PostCode: SO23 8TQ



The site is also used for facilitator training course booking, paying subscriptions and organising meetings (Figure 2). Modules can be viewed online by members to identify which they would like to discuss next. A very helpful part of the site is the ability to record CPD from the sessions and view the group's feedback

Figure 2. Meeting page showing time, location and ability to record learning

## Conclusions

Since going live 22 months ago the website membership has increased and has now exceeded 400 members in 33 Groups. The website does require some oversight and maintenance but this is minimal considering the function and number of members that use it regularly.

Our work demonstrates that websites can be used as an effective tool to manage the administration of PBSGL groups.



www.pbsgl.co.uk

Handout



## Contact details

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