

MEDIA RELEASE
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Make your words count
Call for Londoners who want NHS action

Ever talked about what could and should be done to improve the NHS in London? Well, don't just chat about it – here's your opportunity to turn words into action.

Healthcare for London is a 10-year programme to tackle and improve health services in the capital; including developing specialist centres for stroke and major trauma care, moving hospital-based services closer to home and reducing health inequalities.

This ambitious programme is currently calling for volunteers to join its patient and public advisory group. The group will provide a voice for all Londoners, advising Healthcare for London on its plans to improve a range of NHS services in the capital.

The group will be responsible for challenging Healthcare for London to ensure the interests of patients and the public are fully represented. The group will also have an important advisory role in the development of a consultation on stroke and major trauma care in the capital, due to be launched in early 2009.

Healthcare for London clinical co-chair Sir Cyril Chantler, (chair of the Board of the Great Ormond Street Hospital and of the King's Fund), said:

"London has unique health needs. We are working to address health inequalities and create services that advantage all Londoners.

"Healthcare for London is about outcomes, not talk. We are already turning blueprints into action with the recent announcement of the capital's first five polyclinics. We recognise that it is ultimately patients who make decisions about their NHS treatment and the advisory group will play a vital role in ensuring Londoners' views are heard.

"We are looking for enthusiastic Londoners who want to see care in the capital improve, and who will positively contribute to the development of the plan to revolutionise healthcare."

Members of the patient and public advisory group will comment and advise on Healthcare for London's plans for improving services such as mental health, diabetes and maternity services. The commitment will include attending meetings based in central London approximately once a month.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Healthcare for London for an application pack and submit their completed application form by 5pm on 7 November 2008. This will be followed by a selection process to identify suitable candidates.

For more information, or to obtain an information pack:

Tel: 020 7932 2608

Email: hfl@london.nhs.uk

Visit: www.healthcareforlondon/ppag

Post: PPAG, c/o Josie Turner, Healthcare for London, Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QT

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Notes to editors

For more information on Healthcare for London contact Nadine House T 020 7932 2615.

1. The 'Healthcare for London' programme sets out details to make health services in the capital better, safer and more accessible. This includes developing specialist stroke and trauma centres, better access to GPs out of hours and more outpatient care in the community. Healthcare for London works on behalf of the 31 primary care trusts within London.
2. A three month public consultation *Healthcare for London: Consulting the Capital* took place from November 2007 to March 2008. More than 5,000 individuals and organisations responded to the Healthcare for London consultation with plans formally approved in June this year. For more information visit www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk
3. Members of the patient and public advisory group will need to join their LINK. Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) are made up of individuals and community groups who work together to improve local services. The job of a LINK is to find out what people like and dislike about local health and social care services, and work with the people who plan and run them to help make them better. For more information visit www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/links
4. The Healthcare for London advisory group will incorporate people who are individuals, as well as representatives of local, regional and national organisations with an interest in health and social care.
5. An independent selection panel will choose members of the public to join the advisory group via a competitive selection process.