

Dear member,

Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services

That's the title of the new White Paper on community health and care services published today by Patricia Hewitt.

The White Paper sets out the framework to develop a health and social care system which meets the needs of people in the 21st century. It confirms the vision set out in the Green Paper, Independence, Well-being and Choice, and presents a shift towards:

- * Personal and responsive health and social care services that reflect people's needs and wishes
- * Prevention, public health and well-being
- * Tackling inequalities
- * More focussed support for people with long term conditions
- * More services provided outside of hospitals, closer to people.

At the same time, we are also making public some background material associated with the development of the White Paper on the Department of Health's website, including Opinion Leader Research's report which was written based on the outcomes of your deliberative listening events.

I hope that you will recognise many of the elements in the document, and that you will feel, as we do, that the work you undertook last year has made a very valuable contribution. Please do share the documents with your colleagues and networks.

You can download a copy of the full White Paper via the following link:
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/ourhealthourcareoursay>

An easy read version of the White Paper is also available via the above link. In addition, Opinion Leader Research have produced a report of the findings from the consultation. This can be downloaded from:
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/FreedomOfInformation/ClassesOfInformation/WhitePaperHealthCareCommunity/fs/en>

So what now?

We need your help again. This time it is to help feedback the results of the consultation to the people who took part. We had a fantastic response to the consultation with 29,808 replies to the online & paper questionnaire and at least 8,460 people participating in the local listening exercises that you organised.

We know it is important that people have an opportunity to have their say and that we listen to what people tell us really matters to them. It is also just as important to feedback and let the people who participated know that they have been listened to and their views taken into account. We need your help to do this.

We'd like you to help feedback the messages in the White Paper to those people and communities who contributed. To help explain what the White Paper means in clear and straight forward terms, we've produced a summary document that is specifically designed to do just that. This can be downloaded via www.yoursayresources.nhs.uk, ordered from Prolog and will

also be available in a similar range of alternative languages and formats as the Citizen's Guide.

We've also revamped the 'your health, your care, your say' website to house these White Paper documents and will also provide a comms toolkit to help you feedback the White Paper messages and consultation results.

Also many of you have asked for the consultation data we have collected via the questionnaire and local listening exercises. This will be available very shortly for download from www.yoursayresources.nhs.uk.

Log on to www.yoursayresources.nhs.uk for more details.

Best wishes

Your health, your care, your say
White Paper programme team