

News release

21 December 2009

NHS Constitution – a chance to have your say

NHS Kirklees is currently in consultation on the updated patient rights for the NHS Constitution with staff, members of the public and patients. Discussions with local groups will take place throughout January to make sure that the additional proposed constitutions reflect people's views. NHS Kirklees will be asking what people's opinions are regarding:

- introducing a new right **to access services within maximum waiting times** or for the NHS to take all reasonable steps to offer a range of alternative providers if this is not possible;
- introducing a new **right to a NHS Health Check** every five years for those aged 40-74, to come into effect in 2012, and the right to see an alternative provider if you are not offered one by the provider you approach;
- the introduction of a number of **potential future rights**; and
- Introducing the role of '**Constitution Champion**' within each NHS Primary Care Trust.

Helena Corder, Director of Corporate Services at NHS Kirklees said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for patients and the public to share their views on the proposed updated patient rights for the NHS Constitution which will help them get the best quality care. I hope that as many people as possible feed back their comments."

The NHS Constitution was published on 21 January 2009 which set out a ten year plan to provide the highest quality of care and service for patients in England. The purpose of this is to bring together in one place, what staff, patients and the public expect from the NHS. For patients and the public, this means clear guidance about what they have the right to expect from the NHS and what to do if they don't get it. As all the rights and pledges are set out in one place, it means that everyone knows what they are entitled to. The NHS Constitution also sets out the responsibilities that patients and the public should uphold to help the NHS work effectively and to make sure that resources are used responsibly. It helps staff, patients and the public work together to ensure that quality NHS services are delivered.

www.kirklees.nhs.uk

You can respond to the national consultation exercise by visiting the 'live consultation' section of the Department of Health website at http://www.info.doh.gov.uk/questionnaire/nhs_constitution.nsf

You can complete the online questionnaire or respond to the NHS Constitution team at:

nhsconstitution@dh.gsi.gov.uk

or

NHS Constitution Team
Department of Health
Room 601
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

You can also feedback locally to the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) team at NHS Kirklees by e-mailing ppi@kirklees.nhs.uk The deadline for responses is **5 February 2010**.

Ends.

Notes to News Desk

1. NHS Kirklees is the main NHS body responsible for healthcare and health improvement for people living in the district. NHS Kirklees commissions - that is plans and pays for - any health services you might need. This includes hospitals, ambulances, mental health and other specialist services. NHS Kirklees also agree contracts with local GPs, dentists, pharmacists and optometrists to deliver high-quality services for local people.

**For further information please contact the Communications Team, NHS Kirklees
on 01484 466223**