

How can I get involved?

Everyone, from all parts of the community, is encouraged to get involved with their local PPI Forum to make sure that they can give their views.

Your local forum will have regular public meetings and you are welcome to go to these, perhaps to voice any concerns or issues you might have around health and healthcare in your area. If you have knowledge or experience of a particular aspect of health or healthcare, you may want to contact your forum to contribute to discussions that may be taking place around that topic.

Or, you may want to apply to join a PPI Forum as a volunteer.



“The PPI Forums are an opportunity to get a stronger voice for everyone, but I believe it is particularly important for areas of society who may have previously felt their views have gone unheard.”

Charlie - Forum Member, Sheffield

How do I contact my local forum?

If you have any concerns or issues that you would like to raise with a PPI Forum or if you are interested in going to one of their public meetings, please contact:



For more general information about PPI Forums, please contact:

Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health

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Birmingham

B3 2ES

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Fax: 0121 222 4511

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Help us to shape the future of healthcare



Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health



Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forums have been set up to help you have a much greater input into decisions that affect your health and the health of your local community.

Do you care about health?

Would you like to see an improvement in health and healthcare in your local area?

What are Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forums?

PPI Forums are made up of groups of volunteers in your local community who are enthusiastic about helping patients and members of the public influence the way that local healthcare is organised and delivered.

Forum members come from a broad variety of backgrounds and have a range of experiences and skills.

They are keen to work with all sectors of the community to find out what people really think about health and healthcare in the local area - and take action wherever necessary.

Is there a PPI Forum in my area?

There are over 570 PPI Forums across the whole of England.

Each PPI Forum is independent and works with one of your local NHS Trusts. This may be a Primary Care Trust, which manages your local doctors' surgeries, NHS dentists, opticians and pharmacists, or

an Acute Trust, which manages your local hospitals. There are also forums for Mental Health Trusts and Ambulance Trusts.

This means that whichever service you may be using in your local area, there will be an independent PPI Forum which will be keen to hear your views. Contact details are listed on the back of this leaflet.

Will these forums really make a difference in my local community?

PPI Forums have the power to make a difference in your community because they have been officially set up by the Government and are supported by a national public organisation, the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health.

PPI Forum members will do the following:

- ▶ Contact local communities to find out their views on local healthcare and present these views to the NHS Trust they work with. By law, all trusts must listen to the PPI Forum and provide a response.
- ▶ Independently monitor the quality of local health services through regular visits. Reports of these visits will be given to the Trust and made available to the general public.
- ▶ Look at how often issues in the local community, for example, those connected with social care, transport or housing, affect health.



“As soon as I heard about the forums, I knew that I wanted to apply.

The powers that members are given means they will have a real influence. I will really be able to get results.”

Dorothy - Forum Member, Carlisle