**PEOPLE-POWERED HEALTH: STRENGTHENING PATIENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF NHS ENGLAND**

NHS England has published its new [Patient and Public Participation Policy and Statement of Arrangements and Guidance on Patient and Public Participation in Commissioning](https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/patients/ppp-policy/). The new policy outlines our ambitions and approach to participation in all of our work and the arrangements describe how we meet our legal duty to involve the public in commissioning. Both documents were developed together with NHS England staff, patients and public representatives, and other key partners.

We would like to thank all colleagues and partners who took the time to provide feedback on earlier drafts of the documents.  We received many useful comments which resulted in changes to the content and layout of the documents, and also helped us to identify further actions to embed participation as part of ‘business as usual’ across NHS England.

The main changes to the documents arising from the feedback were.

1.Presentation – in particular making the statement of arrangements a more user-friendly, ‘how to’ guide for commissioning staff.  The document was significantly restructured and simplified from earlier drafts.  It will be complemented by new participation frameworks for each of NHS England’s key areas of commissioning and communications summarising the key messages for different audiences.

2.     Highlighting the need for commissioners to fully consider and utilise existing sources of insight and intelligence (including through partnerships with CCGs, Local Authorities, the voluntary sector and others).

3.     Making more of the linkages with other areas of work, notably in respect of equalities and health inequalities

4.     Clarification of applicability to CCGs and other bodies – the section on co-commissioning in the arrangements has been expanded and refined.

5.     Strengthening the measurement, assurance and evaluation elements, including the requirement for the 13Q assessment form to be completed and retained for audit purposes.

The policy and arrangements are now being implemented and over the next year we will review how they are working in practice and the impact they are having. We will gather feedback in a number of ways including through [a survey on our website](https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/strengthening-ppp) and we would welcome your further comments on how well the documents are working.

We are in the process of promoting the new policy and arrangements to a range of stakeholders.  Attached is a short article that you may want to include in relevant newsletters for your staff or members of your organisation.

If you have any questions, or would like further information, please get in touch.

Best wishes,

Ruth Beattie

Participation Manager, NHS England

NHS England has strengthened its commitment to patient and public participation with the publication of a new [Patient and Public Participation Policy and Statement of Arrangements](https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/patients/ppp-policy/).The policysets out its ambition to ensure that people are at the heart of everything we do and to make participation part of ‘business as usual.’  The arrangements show how we meet our legal duty to involve the public in commissioning.

Both documents were developed together with NHS England staff, patient and public representatives and other key partners. Over the next year NHS England will review how well the policy and arrangements are working in practice and will gather feedback on people’s experiences of participation in its work.  Comments and suggestions can be submitted through the [NHS England website](https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/strengthening-ppp).If you would like more information, please email england.nhs.participation@nhs.net or telephone 0113 8250861.