

**Patient Involvement, Empowerment and Information Conference
Savoy Place, London
16th May 2007**

Dr Jonathan Tritter, Executive Director, of the Centre for Patient Involvement Network launched the conference. Jonathan outlined that they had been working with Rosie Winterton MP on local involvement networks (LINKs). Rosie's portfolio includes patient and public involvement.



Dr Jonathan Tritter, Executive Director, of the Centre for Patient Involvement Network

Rosie Winterton MP Minister of State for Health Services outlined that the Government's commitment to a Patient-Led NHS, and the importance of listening and to responding to the needs of patients. Healthcare providers should be asking about the patient experience and being proactive rather than waiting for the "response from a bad experience". The National Patients' Survey Programme was continuing. The Healthcare Commission issued the results today showing that the survey, now in its third year showed that 92% of patients who responded to the survey said they had a positive experience. The survey highlighted areas where more action was needed on care and dignity.



Rosie Winterton MP Minister of State for Health

There was now a requirement to take the listening process on and promote the role of the patient, not just react. There was a requirement to look at how patients and the public

have a direct voice in how services are commissioned. Patients need the right kind of information, to make the right choices.

The Expert Patients Programme would be involving patient groups with long-term health conditions taking on knowledge and learning from people's experience of living with, managing and improving the quality of lives of people with long-term illness, bringing about understanding and empowerment.

LINKs would be tapping to existing networks and organisations, PPIFs' expertise would not be lost, specialist patient groups would be able to be involved in commissioning services.

The Minister ended her keynote speech stating that Patient Involvement and Empowerment is key to the future of the NHS.

Representatives of MRSA Action UK took an active part in the conference. The closing event involved a panel of patient delegates giving a presentation from the patient perspective on the new opportunities for involvement and feedback from the conference. Derek Butler, our Chair, gave a presentation on behalf of MRSA Action UK and answered a series of interesting points raised by conference attendees on involvement, networking and sharing of patient information.



One of the issues raised was in respect to learning from experience and the sharing of information and practices throughout the NHS. Many of the delegates thought that this was a very valid point raised by our Chair.

A full report on the conference is available to members of MRSA Action UK on request.