



Brent Patient Voice

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Cllr Muhammed Butt
Leader of Brent Council, Chair of Brent Health and Wellbeing Board
Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way
Wembley HA9 0FJ

Dear Councillor Butt

The Brent Health and Wellbeing Board: request for co-opted status

It was good to talk with you at Queen's Park Day recently about health policy matters generally, including our interest in asking the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider co-opting a representative from Brent Patient Voice to the Board.

We are recently constituted as a body, but members of our Steering Group have a depth of experience which relates to the work of the Board, as well as an enthusiasm to see it working effectively for the people of Brent. We note that the Department of Health's "A short guide to health and wellbeing boards" of 28 February 2012 says "Local boards will be free to expand their membership to include a wide range of perspectives and expertise, such as representatives from the charity or voluntary sectors".

In relation to the functions of the Board as set out on the Brent website:

- We strongly support the JSNA and an evidence-based approach to policy which reflects the needs of Brent's population and have experience of social policy formulation at high level;
- We also support the existing Health and Wellbeing Strategy on the basis that prevention is better than cure both for individuals and for the public purse: we would like to see a higher profile for the Strategy in the Borough;
- We support the need for integrated working across health and social care and consider this to be one of the biggest current challenges faced by the Council and the CCG.

We have extensive experience of working with the CCG and addressing issues in depth with their officers. You will know that we submitted a substantial piece of evidence to the Mansfield Commission, following which we have been in constructive dialogue with the Shaping a Healthier Future team under Rob Larkman. Some of our achievements and current concerns, as well as short biographies of Steering Group members, can be found on our website : www.bpv.org.uk . We can supply any further information that may be required.

If the Board is agreeable to co-opting a BPV representative, then I would be the lead person with my colleague, Irwin Van Colle, as the alternate.

We hope you and your colleagues will give our proposal serious consideration.

Kind regards

Robin Sharp CB
Interim Chair Brent Patient Voice