

A personal request for your help from Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE and Ray Hodgkinson MBE on behalf of the National Wheelchair Leadership Alliance



I'm passionate about everyone living an independent, positive life. I want you to help me champion this.

From the age of seven I first used a wheelchair, and as a determined and independent young girl the wheelchair was something that I knew could help me achieve my goals and aspirations. It wasn't long before I was already starting to enjoy and excel at sports.

Through determination and hours of hard work and effort I achieved my goals with 11 gold, four silver and one bronze Paralympic medals to my name.

Today I have just as much drive and passion, and I currently have a very specific goal, but it's one that I can't do by myself. It's something I need your help with.

I want to make sure that wheelchair services are not simply forgotten services. These pieces of equipment are life-givers to everyone who needs them.

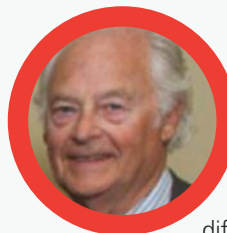
I want to make sure that everyone in England who needs a wheelchair gets the best possible care and support in making their choice. I want equality of access and more than anything, I want the individual to be put at the heart of all and any decisions about their wheelchair needs.

But, as I say, I need your help to make sure what we do in the National Wheelchair Leadership Alliance is representative of users, services and commissioners. So please take the time to read through our Charter and please, as a commissioner of these services, sign up to it.

This is not just important to me, it is important to thousands of wheelchair users across England who need our help and support. Thank you.

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Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE
Chair, Wheelchair Leadership Alliance



I know what we can achieve by working together – I want your support to improve and innovate.

In my fifty years in the industry, I've seen first-hand that massive difference that not just a wheelchair, but the RIGHT wheelchair can make to an individual user.

To make that happen consistently, it's vital that commissioners understand the role manufacturers and suppliers can play in helping them find innovative solutions – like the Powered Neuro Wheelchairs developed for use people with MND and similar progressive conditions.

Working together is the best way to create cost-effective, user-centred services that give everyone who needs a wheelchair the right chair at the right time.

So please take the time to read through the Alliance's Charter, pledge your support for its principles at www.rightwheelchair.org.uk and join me in taking action to help improve wheelchair services.

Your support is truly vital and will help the Alliance, as well as thousands of wheelchair users, to improve this often forgotten service. Thank you.

Ray

Ray Hodgkinson MBE
Director of Public Affairs, British Healthcare Trades Association (BHTA) Member, Wheelchair Leadership Alliance

