

# A personal request for your help from Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE and Tanvi Vyas 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.

**Tanni**

**Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE  
Chair, Wheelchair Leadership Alliance**



**With the right wheelchair, people are capable of so much more. Career and personal life aspirations can become a reality.**

Since I was 11, I've been a wheelchair user; I know, firsthand how challenging and time consuming it can be to get the right wheelchair, suitable seating and the follow up care required.

I also know that there are people working in the NHS trying their very best to provide services that match up to people's needs. But things are never straightforward.

Hearing from disabled people I know that when you have the right wheelchair, you don't think twice, you get on with things like others do. You can enjoy independence, seize opportunities and live a fulfilling life. But when people can't secure appropriate wheelchair services, life can be put in limbo, and a progressive condition doesn't allow them the luxury of a lengthy wait.

I want to make sure everyone has an equal chance at securing the right wheelchair, giving individuals the opportunity to achieve their personal goals and to have independence. I hope for consistency, fairness and high quality services throughout England but for this, I need you to join me and be involved in positive change.

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

Your support is truly vital and will help me personally, as well as thousands of wheelchair users, in improving and supporting this often forgotten service. Thank you.

**Tanvi**

**Tanvi Vyas  
Trailblazers Project Manager, Muscular Dystrophy  
UK Member, Wheelchair Leadership Alliance**

