

A personal request for your help from Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE and Angela Green 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 am passionate about supporting our wheelchair services to deliver the best care to enable everyone who needs a wheelchair to live their life to the fullest as possible.

Having worked for 25 years in our NHS across various settings I have developed understanding of the importance of our wheelchair services and yet have seen often that they are over looked.

The timely provision of the right equipment to all those who need it is essential for rehabilitation, enabling independence, preventing future physical problems and allowing users to lead a full and enriching life.

We spend millions treating disease, fixing health problems and saving lives but then often send people back into their homes and communities with little or no thought for provision of equipment needs.

In 2014, I worked with some of the wheelchair service teams in Y&H, they recognised the importance of sharing learning and set up a regional network. Many of the clinicians and managers contributed to the development of the current NHS England data collection and shadow tariff. I experienced some of their shared frustrations about lack of resources, disjointed processes, and inadequate IT systems.

I really want to see a future with all our wheelchair services working closer with users and families are supported to deliver the best care to enable everyone who needs a wheelchair to live life to the fullest as possible.

I ask you to take the time to read through our Charter and 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 for only by joining together can we make a real and lasting difference to the lives of all our wheelchair users, families and communities. Thank you.

Angela

**Angela Green, Improvement Programme Manager
(Improvement Academy) part of Y&H AHSN.
Physiotherapist. Member, National Wheelchair
Leadership Alliance**

