

A personal request for your help from Baroness Grey-Thompson DBE and Dr Caron Morton 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.

Tanni

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



As a doctor and a health commissioner there are few things I see or hear about that truly surprise me...

But sometimes something catches your attention, makes you sit up that little bit straighter and listen that little bit harder. It makes you question what you know and what you thought you knew.

This is what happened when I started working with a group of passionate and knowledgeable people on the National Wheelchair Leadership Alliance. I started questioning just how much I really knew about how many people use wheelchairs, what sort of life do wheelchair users lead, and importantly just how do wheelchairs empower and inspire the people who use them.

I was honestly surprised by the experiences, feelings and issues faced by some wheelchair users. I am now very proud to be part of this work, but we need your help and support.

We need all CCGs in England to sign up to the Alliance's Charter. We feel that this is vital to make sure these often over-looked, but vital services are given a priority when it comes to commissioning.

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

Caron

**Dr Caron Morton MBE
Accountable Officer, Shropshire CCG
Member, Wheelchair Leadership Alliance**

