

My wish for our NHS

Feedback from the NHS Older People's Sounding Board.
January 2023.

80 years after the publication of the Beveridge report we asked people what their wish was for the NHS.

My wish for the NHS is...

- That it becomes the best it can possibly be and stay free!
- To change culture to shared decision making - coproduction and personalised care to make patients as partners, advocates, diplomats and champions, turning them round as assets.
- To continue to provide high quality care for myself, friends and my family and to all patients. It must continue to be free at the point of every patient's need. I feel the NHS must continue and aim to do so in the future for everyone that needs it.
- It gets more involved with promoting healthy lifestyles and campaigns.
- It works towards the commissioning of training of doctors and nurses to ensure optimum, rather than minimum staff levels in primary, secondary, tertiary and social care.
- Being truly able to work seamlessly together with all organisations that contribute to the full patient journey without organisational barriers and politics.
- Stop focussing on meaningless targets, and to be given time to fully explore and embed quality improvement.
- That it is fully publicly owned, adequately staffed, staff paid properly and providing high quality services for all regardless of economic or social status.

- That of mutual respect and understanding... patients and staff must stand back-to-back to support one another, each sharing mutual understanding and respect for one another in support of each other.
- That they stop using my personal data and instead use our unique NHS numbers for minor issues, that non-clinical staff deal with.
- That it becomes more holistic and recognises good practices.
- That it recognises and employs music therapists... equally to physios, OTs.
- That it recognises the skill set on equal terms... and with the same fundamental training in assessments and the application of therapeutic interventions.
- That emotional and physical health must become more holistic across all departments of the NHS. If someone is traumatised, there is less likely to be a full recovery.
- To remove the use of the word 'mental' which holds stigma of past generations, and to instead recognise the mind and body, the spiritual and emotional side of wellbeing.
- Remove any 'mental' labelling for good... emotional affect or well-being, spiritual spaces and positive psychology must replace any negative messages.
- For the NHS to remove the age discrimination in employment.
- New leadership, removal of middle managers and put the funding back into frontline staff for patient needs.
- That it will remain free for all and be there during my lifetime!

What's your wish?

Share your wish with us...

- In the comments
- By emailing paul.gutherson@ndti.org.uk

NHS Older People's Sounding Board

Facilitated by the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) on behalf of NHS England.