

Patient & Public Involvement Forums
National Association Steering Group

COPY

Mr John Baron MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12 June 2007

Dear Mr Baron

I am writing to let you know that following a national ballot of all PPI Forum members conducted by the Electoral Reform Society, a Steering Group of 18 members has been elected to represent Patient and Public Involvement Forum members across England. The Steering Group will examine the opportunities for the creation of national body for Forum members and will have a pivotal role in relation to LINKs and the proposed new PPI framework. The Steering Group will provide a representative and accountable voice on behalf of Forum members within the present system.

The Steering Group recently had its first meeting and elected Ruth Marsden from the Humberside and Yorkshire Region as Vice Chair and myself (from the London Region) as Chair. The Steering Group has agreed its initial priorities and identified a range of organisations that we would like to establish relationships with.

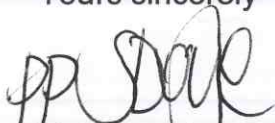
We need to quickly strengthen our co-working and I would therefore be grateful if you could put us on your circulation list for information relating to PPI and public engagement and other related areas. We would like to establish links with your organisation and I would be grateful if you could provide a primary contact with whom we can communicate. Can you ensure that the Steering Group is included in any invitations or initiatives regarding PPI and the proposed development of LINKs?

Since December 2003 over 8000 people have invested knowledge and expertise in PPI Forums and the Steering Group intends to ensure that this experience contributes to the development of the new PPI system and to public engagement within the public sector more generally.

Members are confident that they will bring unique insight and a valuable steer to the new PPI framework.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Malcolm Alexander
Chair, National Association Steering Group

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