

Investing for Health Project 11 – dentistry

Patient & public experience/patient involvement in dentistry.

Recruiting members of the public from the SHA health insight group

- **Text for email to members of the health insight group/panel**

Seeking volunteers - public involvement in the improvement of NHS dentistry

The SHA and our PCTs have set up an *Investing for Health* project aimed at improving the commissioning of NHS dentistry, and improving the quality of dental services offered by the NHS. We are keen to recruit members of the health insight panel who have an interest in dentistry to provide a lay input into this work. Your input could take one of a number of forms, some more intensive than others.

Specifically, we are holding an exciting one-day event on Thursday 18 March 2010 at the Ramada Hotel, Sutton Coldfield. The event will explore opportunities for patient involvement in NHS dentistry and how to improve the patient experience.

To make the event a success, we are looking for a small number of lay participants, to join local dentists, dental nurses and PCT managers.

If you (or a member of your family, or a friend) have:

- recently been to the dentist
- tried to access an NHS dentist
- had a positive experience
- had cause to complain
- ideas about what could be done to involve patients more

Then we would very much like to you to join us at this event and to share your views and experiences.

To find out more about this event and/or other ways in which you could get involved.... [Link](#)

- **Text for newsletter**

Seeking volunteers - public involvement in the improvement of NHS dentistry

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NHS. We are keen to recruit members of the health insight panel who have an interest in dentistry to provide a lay input into this work.

Specific parts of the project to which you might wish to contribute include: designing information for the public and patients ; quality standards in NHS dentistry; providing effective patient feedback about dental services.

Your input could take one of a number of forms, some more time-intensive than others. These include:

- Receiving information about the project
- Opportunities to comment on written draft material
- Taking part in occasional events
- Involvement in regular project meetings

Please let us know if you'd like to get involved, and which of the above would best describe how you'd like to be involved. Also tell us if you are interested in specific issues or aspects of dentistry. You can contact us by email at: dentistry.ifh@westmidlands.nhs.uk

For anyone particularly interested in taking part in occasional events, we are holding an exciting one-day event on Thursday 18 March 2010 at the Ramada Hotel, Sutton Coldfield. The event will explore opportunities for patient involvement in NHS dentistry and how to improve the patient experience.

We hope that the outcome of this event will be a joint understanding of:

- what good practice already exists
- what opportunities there are for patients to get more involved
- what are the barriers to overcome and the support needs for practices
- what are the next steps, including some quick wins

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Please for this event will be limited. If you want to know more, please email dentistry.ifh@westmidlands.nhs.uk by **29 January 2010**.

Volunteers will be reimbursed under the SHA's policy for remunerating patients.