British Geriatrics Society
Improving healthcare for older people

Improving health for Older People

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Health Outcomes for Older People from the perspective of someone living with a long term health condition

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Enid Hoole

Living with Parkinson's before my diagnosis 2008-2012

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Life after diagnosis 2012- present

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How I became a PRA for older people with the North West Coast Research Community

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Why was I interested in getting into research?

- It had taken 4 years for my diagnosis.
- I felt that the only way to improve things was research.
- Maybe by my volunteering for research, in the future people would get a speedier diagnosis or medication might improve.
- Maybe we would get closer to a cure!

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The North West Coast Clinical Research Network has demonstrated genuine support for the development of the Research Community and real patient involvement.

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The aim of the Research Community

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To grow PRAs with a view to matching them to the Clinical Speciality Leads in the Clinical Research Network

My experience of being a PRA

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So, speaking as an older person what do I want from the health service?

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- **I want to be seen as an individual. As a person, not just a patient***
- **I want to be listened to and to feel that what I have to say is considered important.**
- **I want to be treated with care and sensitivity.**

So, what else do I need?

- **I would like to be able to see a GP without having to wait for 2 weeks.**

- **I would have liked my clinicians to offer support when I got my diagnosis by informing me of what is available to help my condition alongside a prescription for medication.**

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In Conclusion the two points I want to emphasise are:

- **Involving older people in Research will result in improved health outcomes**

- **The attitude of NHS Staff can make a big difference in improving the health outcomes of older people**

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"Patient centred care doesn't cost anything, it just requires working alongside the patient in front of you and negotiating the best outcomes possible for that person.
The key to this is having the will to do that in the first place."

Deborah Morris