

Press Release
Friday 18th May

Treat Me Right! Gets shortlisted to represent North West London in NHS's 70th birthday Parliamentary Awards



L-R: Helen Cairns (Treat Me Right! Project Manager), Lorraine Jarman (Family Support Manager), John Keaveny (Learning Disability Awareness Trainer Coordinator), and May Lee (Personalisation Development Lead).

Our *Treat Me Right!* Project has just been nominated for a Parliamentary Award and winners will be announced in early July. It has been chosen from hundreds of applicants to represent North West London in the prestigious competition which marks the NHS's 70th birthday.

About the awards

Launched in February, the NHS70 Parliamentary Awards asked MPs to find and nominate those individuals or teams they thought have made the biggest improvements to health services in their constituencies across ten categories. The *Treat Me Right!* Team was

nominated by Virendra Sharma MP, Mark Field MP, Nick Hurd MP, Boris Johnson MP, and Tulip Siddiq MP.

From over 750 entries, senior experts chose four nominations in each category, which exemplify the best of what the NHS and its partners do day in, day out.

As regional champion in the Care and Compassion Award category, *Treat Me Right!* will now vie with other regional winners from across England for a national award. The award will be presented at a special ceremony in the Palace of Westminster on the 4th July.

Treat Me Right!

The *Treat Me Right!* Team, have trained frontline NHS staff to better understand the experiences of people with autism and learning disabilities, and to make reasonable adjustments to the way services are delivered where needed. The training directly helps people avoid escalation of distress and unnecessary hospital admissions.

To reach as many staff as possible (and therefore benefit as many patients as possible) the training was specifically adapted and tailored to different audiences and was co-delivered by someone who has lived experience of learning disability or autism. One of the trainers, Ben, said, “*Being a trainer isn’t about sitting down and staying still like a museum exhibit, but about really interacting with the attendees and telling my story.*”

All of the MPs who nominated Treat Me Right! For an award have said fantastic things about the project.

Boris Johnson MP (South Ruislip and Uxbridge), said: “As the NHS marks its 70th birthday, these awards are a fantastic way to celebrate the achievements of the NHS. I’m delighted *Treat Me Right!* has been shortlisted for the Care and Compassion Award and that the judges have recognised the phenomenal work the team does.

“It’s great to see such innovative work; designed with and delivered by people who have autism or learning difficulties, this scheme benefits from important insight to pinpoint reasonable adjustments for patients to help avoid any unnecessary distress. Well done again to all involved in *Treat Me Right!*”

Nick Hurd MP (Ruislip, Norwood and Pinner), said: “I was delighted to nominate the *Treat Me Right!* team for the NHS 70th birthday Parliamentary Awards.

“The training they’ve delivered to NHS staff has had a real impact on minimising the potential stresses of hospital treatment for those with autism or a learning disability, and their unique methods of collaboration have produced strategies that are fully tailored to the needs of patients.

“It is testament to their hard work that they have been nominated by so many of my parliamentary colleagues and I wish them the very best of luck in the final!”

Tulip Siddiq MP (Hampstead and Kilburn), said: “Brent is home to so many exceptional healthcare professionals, but I was particularly delighted to nominate Treat Me Right! for the Care and Compassion award.

“They offer a bespoke training service for frontline staff, producing hugely positive outcomes for those with learning difficulties and for the NHS as a whole.

“I am thrilled that the programme has been shortlisted for this prestigious award, and it is my sincerest hope that the programme receives even more support as a result.”

Virendra Sharma MP (Ealing Southall) said: “I was proud to nominate the *Treat Me Right!* training programme for the Care and Compassion Award, and I’m extremely pleased to see that it has been very deservedly shortlisted.”

Mark Field MP (Cities of London and Westminster), said: “I’m delighted that *Treat Me Right!*, commissioned by NHS North West London CCGs is shortlisted for the national Care and Compassion award as part of the NHS70 Parliamentary Awards marking the 70th birthday of the NHS.

“*Treat Me Right!*, designed with and delivered by people who have autism or learning disabilities provides frontline NHS staff with training to better understand the experiences of those with autism and to make adjustments to the way services are delivered.

“The programme has been delivered to over 20 teams in the local area, with more than 750 staff members trained so far.

“As the regional champion, the *Treat Me Right!* team will come to Parliament on 4 July (the day before the NHS’s 70th birthday) for the awards ceremony.

“I look forward to welcoming the team to Parliament and I would like to wish them the best of luck for the national award. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the NHS a very happy 70th birthday!”

What happens next?

All of the champions have been invited to the national awards ceremony on 4th July, the day before the NHS’s 70th birthday. We are keeping our fingers crossed for success on the night! In the meantime, a big well done to everyone involved.

ENDS

For more information please contact louise.mccudden@nhs.net.

Notes to Editors

The NHS marks its 70th birthday on July 5th 2018, and the NHS70 Parliamentary Awards is part of a range of activities being organised by NHS England and NHS Improvement to mark this milestone, and the achievements of the NHS and those who work for and with it.

These range from ceremonies for NHS staff in Westminster Abbey and York Minster, the special 10p NHS coin released by The Royal Mint and new resources for schools to engage children and young people to think about a career in the NHS, to local open days, exhibitions and other events being staged by hospitals and other health organisations.

People and organisations are also encouraged to take part in the NHS Big 7Tea, with tea parties happening across the country to mark the birthday, sharing their NHS stories and raising money for one of over 250 dedicated NHS charities.

Find out more about NHS70 celebrations and how to get involved at www.nhs70.nhs.uk.

Further information on the NHS70 Parliamentary Awards is available at www.nhs70awards.co.uk.