

GLACHC

*The Greater London Association of
Community Health Councils*

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

PRESS INVITATION TO ATTEND GLACHC CONFERENCE

EXCITING AND INNOVATIVE CONFERENCE TO CHAMPION USER AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN LONDON'S PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

'PRIMARY CARE IN LONDON – AN UPDATE. DEVELOPING GENUINE PARTNERSHIPS'

Monday 28th June, 1999

Health service users, carers, representatives from London's voluntary sector and Community Health Councils, lay representatives of Primary Care Groups and patient participation groups are to attend a conference next Monday, the aim of which is move users and public involvement in planning and monitoring primary care services in the capital, right up the agenda. The results of discussions will be written up in the form of a good practice manual which can be used by all the groups above, including the newly established Primary Care Groups.

Sue Towns, GLACHC Director comments, "This isn't going to be another "talking shop", we really want to come out of the day with some positive, practical action points, and examples of good practice on which to campaign for genuine partnerships between those who provide primary care services, those who use them, and those who are excluded from using them".

Participants will be given an up to the minute report on primary care services in London, look at the new role of Health Authorities, Primary Care Groups and Trusts in the 'New NHS', here what primary health care interventions Black communities want, look at why some Londoners are excluded from using the services, and explore ways of genuinely involving users and the public in primary care groups.

Speakers include: Dr. David Colin Thome, Director of Primary Care, NHS Executive London; Dr. Tanya Eber, Marylebone Primary Care Group; Gary Francis, Director of Uplift Drugs Prevention Project; David Panter, Chief Executive of Hillingdon Health Authority. The conference chair is Annabelle May, Journalist and Health Policy Analyst.

**Further details can be obtained from Sue Towns, 0171-700-8125 (work), or
0171-722-9502 (home)**

NOTES TO EDITORS

GLACHC conference: 'Primary Care In London – An Update. Developing Genuine Partnerships', will be held on Monday 28th, June, 10.00am – 5pm, The Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA. (Nearest tube station Holloway Road, Piccadilly Line) Members of the press are welcome to attend.

ABOUT GLACHC

The Greater London Association of Community Health Councils (GLACHC) is a voluntary organisation founded in 1984, in recognition of the need for an organisation to give a voice to Londoners as users/potential users of the National Health Service.

The main aims of GLACHC are:

- ◆ To provide research, information, training and support to Community Health Councils (CHCs) in London;
- ◆ To promote co-operation between London CHCs, user groups and voluntary organisations on all matters concerning health services in London;
- ◆ To provide a forum to examine and comment on London's health services from the point of view of users and potential users of the NHS;
- ◆ To strengthen the voice of London users in policy making and decision-taking forums.

GLACHC aims to fulfil these aims through a variety of activities including:

- ◆ Research on a variety of health service issues from the users perspective;
- ◆ Information on health policy issues and CHC initiatives
- ◆ Publications of research findings, discussion documents and conference papers;
- ◆ Conferences
- ◆ Convenes London Health Alliance, an informal coalition of Pan-London organisations with an interest in campaigning on health service issues
- ◆ Training for CHCs, voluntary organisations and statutory organisations;
- ◆ Consultancy on issues to further the interest of NHS users and potential users;
- ◆ Liaison between CHCs and with other organisations.