

## **Learning in Partnership with Patients**

### **Introduction**

Each patient and their journey through health care is unique. Understanding the experiences of a person as they become a patient and receive care and treatment is essential to everyone. Patients and their families have told us that they want to work in partnership with us to help staff better understand their experience and what matters most to them during what can be a challenging time.

### **Why a different approach?**

We believe that patients who are regular users of health services, both in hospital and in primary care, are a valuable sometimes untapped resource. We would like to try a new approach to help people who are planning on going into nurse training understand how it feels to be a patient. Joining a patient on a journey through a planned operation or spending time with them to hear their story will help our students focus on how it feels to be a patient, and also how other services and professionals work together.

### **How?**

We would like to recruit 12 volunteer patients to work with us. Each volunteer will be “buddied” up with a student and between you will agree what you want that to look like. It could be you are happy for the student to accompany you on a visit to your GP or to a hospital appointment. Or you may have a planned operation coming up and your student could follow you through the pre operation assessments, hospital stay and afterwards during your recovery.

### **Who can volunteer?**

If you are a patient who currently uses health services in the hospital or the community this could be you! We would welcome people with a variety of health needs to help our students understand a range of experiences.

### **How will we know whether it works?**

Whilst we hope this works well, it is the first time we have done it so it's important we evaluate this approach. We will do this by having discussions with the volunteers involved, the students and through written assignments. If this new approach is successful it will become a regular part of the preparation of people for pre nurse training.

If you are interested in being a volunteer please contact:

Debbie Knight, Head of Nursing and Midwifery Education.

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