



**National Voices**

People shaping health  
and social care

David Mowat MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Community Health and Care  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

22 July 2016

Dear Minister

## **CONGRATULATIONS AND INTRODUCING NATIONAL VOICES**

Congratulations on your appointment to the DH ministerial team. National Voices is the leading coalition of charities in the health and care arena. We have worked closely with the Department and its arm's length bodies over several years, as one of its voluntary sector strategic partners.

Our job is to ensure that patients and citizens have a full voice in decisions about health and care, from policy to front-line delivery. The evidence is that citizen involvement powerfully drives improvements in health and wellbeing, treatment outcomes, research, innovation and productivity.

A big focus of our work is on helping to keep people well, independent and out of hospital, marshalling the power of the voluntary sector. We have helped develop policy thinking on integration, care planning, self-care and shared decision making. We contributed to the Care Act and to the NHS Five Year Forward View. I chair the People and Communities Board, one of the mechanisms driving the Five Year Forward View, with a focus on people-focussed approaches.

I look forward to meeting you and I do hope that you will have an early opportunity to engage with National Voices and our members. I would be delighted to arrange a time for us to explore how we can work together. In the meantime, I attach a copy of the letter that I sent this week to the Secretary of State.

With best wishes

Jeremy Taylor  
Chief Executive