

Thursday 7 March 2024

Amanda Pritchard
Chief Executive
NHS England

Sent by email

Dear Amanda

I wanted to write and thank you personally for all the support that both you and the NHS England team have given to prioritising the successful implementation of Martha's Rule.

It is a really exceptional experience, working collaboratively with colleagues from across so many organisations to deliver an initiative that resonates so positively with the public, healthcare professionals, as well as, of course with Martha's parents, Merope and Paul. In particular, I wanted to thank you for your leadership and for the really welcome announcement of the pilot.

I have real confidence that the next stage of the work, the 100 sites pilot project, will deliver helpful results and intelligence about how we can roll this out further, and I am already talking to Aidan Fowler and DHSC about how we design the Oversight Group which I will be Chairing.

Prioritising patient safety and patient voice has allowed us to start having a different type of conversation across the healthcare sector. I meet regularly with executives in NHS Trusts and FTs and am really pleased that they want to see safety as a top priority. I've received feedback from NHS Trust Executives who have said clearly that they would find it helpful if they could point directly to something in the Planning Guidance that covers patient safety and fostering an overarching safety culture. They feel strongly, as do I, that this would help to build a sense that patient safety is given the same level of priority as finance and operational performance.

I would be very grateful if you could include an element of patient safety in the forthcoming Planning Guidance and would be very happy to discuss this with your team in terms of language that would fit with the goals of improving patient safety and leadership.

With many thanks and warmest regards



Dr Henrietta Hughes OBE FRCGP SFFMLM
Patient Safety Commissioner