



Who to target

When you're clear about the change you want to see, it's much easier to work out who you should be targeting. Who has the power to make that change happen? It's good to be as specific as possible – for example, a particular Local Councillor or the Chief Executive at your local hospital.

For a local campaign on heart health issues, your campaign target will usually be someone within the health organisation in your area who has responsibility for delivering the relevant service. But don't forget to involve your local politician. They're influential people who can speak up on your behalf.

If you live in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, a lot of decision-making power has shifted from Westminster to national parliaments and assemblies.

Here's some information to help you think about who to target.

England

Parliament

Decisions about health in England are made at Westminster by Members of Parliament (MPs). There is a Government minister who has responsibility for health known as the Secretary of State for Health. You can find out which MP represents you by visiting www.parliament.uk or calling **020 7219 4272**

Health Services

There are several types of NHS Trust. Local Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are charged with improving the health of the local community. They design and deliver services, 'commission' (buy) services from other NHS Trusts and provide services, such as GPs. As with all the types of trust each PCT will have a Chief Executive and someone who is responsible for cardiac services, who could be potential targets for you if you want to change something locally.

As the NHS in England is currently going through some big changes, the way that healthcare is designed and delivered will soon be transformed.

You can find more details here:

bhf.org.uk/about-us/our-policies/treatment-and-care-policies/changes-to-the-nhs.aspx

More information can also be found at www.parliament.uk and www.nhs.uk

Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Assembly

Power to make decisions on matters of health, public health and other devolved issues lies with the Northern Ireland Assembly. You have six Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who represent you at Stormont. It is up to you which of these you contact on any particular issue. You can find out who your local MLAs are by visiting www.niassembly.gov.uk or phoning the Northern Ireland Assembly on **028 9052 1333**

Health Services

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety oversees Health and Social Care (HSC). HSC provides integrated health and social care services in Northern Ireland. Five Health and Social Care Trusts are responsible for delivering these services across Northern Ireland. In addition there is a Regional Health and Social Care Board (RHSCB) which is responsible for performance management and improvement, commissioning and financial management and a Public Health Agency (PHA).

More information can also be found at www.niassembly.gov.uk and www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Scotland

Parliament

Since 1999 the Scottish Parliament has had responsibility for health policy in Scotland. Nearly all decisions regarding health services and public health are made by politicians at the Scottish Parliament. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing has responsibility for health in the government.

Everyone is represented by one MSP for their constituency and an additional seven MSPs who cover an entire region – like Lothian, or the Highlands, for example. Any of these MSPs are there to represent you and you can contact them to discuss the issues that affect you or the area they represent.

You can find out which MSPs represent you by visiting www.scottish.parliament.uk or by calling **0131 348 5000**

Health Services

The Scottish Government Health Directorates are responsible for policies for health and social care and also NHS Scotland. NHS Scotland services are delivered locally by 14 Health Boards. Primary and community services are managed by 41 Community Health Partnerships within Boards: (www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/chp). If you are campaigning about the provision of a service locally it is important your campaign includes those who manage services on an everyday basis; these could include those within Boards or Community Health Partnerships.

KNOW WHO TO TALK TO

For campaigns where you are looking at the quality of or access to service provision you may want to refer to the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) which publishes national clinical guidelines. These can give you a good idea of what you should be entitled to.

The Scottish Government also publishes strategies and documents that set out standards of service for people with heart disease. You can find these documents at www.scotland.gov.uk

More information can also be found at www.scottish.parliament.uk and www.show.scot.nhs.uk

Wales

The Welsh Assembly

The National Assembly has the power to make decisions on health policy in Wales. There is a Minister for Health and Social Services who has responsibility for this department in the Welsh Assembly.

In total there are 60 Assembly Members (AMs). You have a constituency AM and then 4 'additional member' AMs who represent your area in the Assembly, like North Wales, for example:

You can find out which AMs represent you by visiting www.assemblywales.org or calling **0845 010 5500**

Health Services

The Department of Health and Social Services has responsibility for health and social care delivery, policy and strategy and also the funding of NHS Wales.

There are ten NHS Trusts in Wales. These Trusts come under the control of seven Local Health Boards (LHBs). Trusts and LHBs are responsible for the design and delivery of healthcare services in Wales.

If you are campaigning about the provision of a service locally it is important your campaign includes those who manage services on an everyday basis; these could include those within Boards or Trusts.

To help deliver the requirements of the National Service Framework for Cardiac Services, three cardiac networks have been set up. These networks are made up of organisations which are responsible for, or have a direct interest in, providing cardiac services. Their focus is on the patient journey from GP referral to receiving treatment and sharing best practice.

National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines are used in Wales. You may wish to refer to these if your campaign addresses issues of quality of or access to treatment.

More information can also be found at www.wales.gov.uk and www.wales.nhs.uk

Further resources:

Practice your campaigning - BHF Campaigns Find out about and take part in BHF campaigns on lots of different issues. You can also find resources and reports to help with your own campaigns bhf.org.uk/campaigns

Information gathering - They work for you A website where you can find information about your local politician, including their voting record theyworkforyou.com

Patient Opinion Patients can feedback directly to the health service they have used via this website patientopinion.org.uk

Building on your skills - The Sheila McKechnie Foundation A charity aimed at developing new campaigners. They run training and workshops for campaigners www.smk.org.uk

Promoting your campaign - Campaign central Designed to not only support campaigners but to connect them too.

Was this guide helpful?

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