

## Introduction

**Thurrock Commissioning Reference Group (CRG) was established in April 2012 initially operating in shadow form until April 2013.**

We are an advisory body to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and help them to fulfil their statutory duty to engage with and involve the public and patients in healthcare decisions. We also act as a 'critical friend' to the CCG. While CRGs do not have decision-making powers, we are a powerful lobbying group and we are actively involved in the bodies and organisations that do. For example, our chair of Thurrock CRG, Len Green sits on the Thurrock CCG Governing Body as a Lay Member (Patient and Public Involvement) and also on the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board.



## Who can join?

The CRG is made up of Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) members and patient representatives from practices that do not have a PPG. The CRG currently includes representatives from Thurrock Council, Healthwatch Thurrock, Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service, carers, special interest groups and a GP champion for patient, carer and public engagement.

By including a wide range of community representatives, we aim to address health inequalities in our local population.

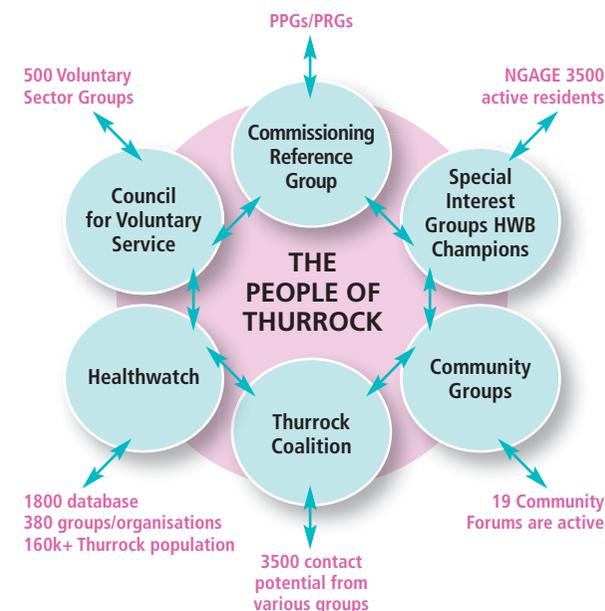
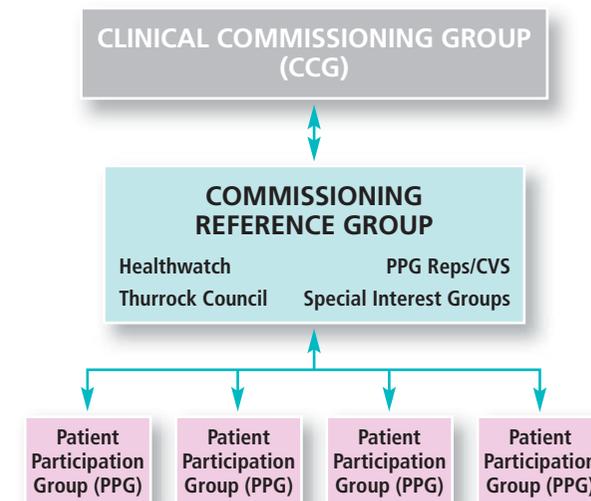
We believe that each of these groups brings a different perspective to what should be considered when healthcare decisions are made.

## What is the purpose of the CRG?

### Our main purposes are:

- Providing a public/patient/carers voice within the CCG, aiming to ensure the views of local stakeholders are fully understood and considered by the CCG.
- Advising the CCG on its annual commissioning plan.
- Improving communication between the CCG and the wider community.
- Encouraging and enabling patient and public participation from all sectors of the population, including seldom heard groups, in the work of the CCG.
- Acting as a mechanism for local information and public expression to influence effectively all aspects of CCG policy and practice, including the setting of mission, values and objectives, and ensuring equality and inclusion are properly accommodated.
- Consulting with the Governing Body and Commissioners on proposals to alter any service provision.

## The Patient and Public Engagement process



## Patients: at the heart of decision-making

Our ambition is that patient and carer members provide the CRG with insight, information, and views about services from their viewpoint. This is so that the experience and views of patients inform and influence the planning and delivery of the specialised service so that those services are better able to deliver the kind of experience and outcomes that patients actually want. While CRGs are the voice of the people in commissioning decisions, there may be times where clinical benefits and outcomes for patients outweigh public feeling and in those circumstances a well-balanced decision will need to be taken, with a full explanation of the reasons why.

## Our Aim

**We aim to create a robust approach to communicate with and involve stakeholders and users and for there to be better accountability built into local systems and transparent, open communications and decision making processes.**

## Thurrock CCG Vision

The Health and care experience of the people of Thurrock will be improved as a result of our working effectively together.



## Who do we work with?

**The CRG has a close working relationship with a number of local groups, notably:**

- **Healthwatch Thurrock:** is the champion of patients and people using services, carers and the wider public at both national and local level.
- **Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board:** leads on improving the strategic coordination and integration of commissioning across the NHS, social care and related children's and public health services.
- **Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC):** is a committee in Thurrock Council. It has powers to review and scrutinise matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area.
- **Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service (CVS):** is an organisation that supports voluntary and community based organisations in Thurrock.

## Meetings

The CRG meets at least six times a year. Meetings dates, times and locations are circulated to CRG members well in advance. Representatives from Patient Participation Groups are chosen to attend CRG meetings on behalf of their PPG. To join a PPG, please enquire at your local GP surgery.

## Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Reference Group

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Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group

## Commissioning Reference Group (CRG)

*"No decision about me  
without me, no decision  
about us without us"*

