

Biographical data

Judy Birch has been involved with Health First Europe since 2006 as a member of the Advisory Committee. As an individual member, she represents the patient perspective on the committee and spoke on behalf of Health First Europe at a lunchtime seminar on endometriosis hosted by Diana Wallis MEP in the European Parliament. Judy also participated in all HFE events since 2006.

Her background is in teaching. In 2000 Judy established a local support group for those with endometriosis. She coordinated patient involvement in a Dorset wide endometriosis project between clinicians, health professionals, administrators and patients around the topics of Education/Training, Information and Guideline development. A year later she became a founding member of the All Party Parliamentary Working Group for Endometriosis. Judy has been a member of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum for Bournemouth and Poole PCT since the forums were established in 2003. She assisted with the development of a local pain survey which was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2007.

In 2006, Judy coordinated an international pelvic pain survey of patient opinion in several countries on diagnosis, treatment, access to services and the effect of pelvic pain on quality of life. The same year she founded the charity, the Pelvic Pain Support Network. Judy has given presentations to clinicians and researchers at medical congresses and workshops, National and International as well as input into NICE guidance, NHS, Lord Darzi review and EU consultations.

Judy is on the steering group of the Medical Technology Group and of the James Lind Alliance (JLA) Urinary Incontinence working group for identifying treatment uncertainties. She is also a co-editor of the NHS DUETs database for gathering questions about treatment uncertainties in the areas of pelvic pain and endometriosis.

(Updated 02/01/08)