ME Awareness Campaign 2017

About the pro forma letter to NHS England

* + - 1. ***The ‘MUPS’ publication relates to England only. If you live elsewhere in the UK it does not apply. We therefore advise that only members living in England send the letter.***
      2. Please remember to put your address on the letter for reply.
      3. Letters can be more effective if they are personalised. You may wish to say something about your own situation / experience - particularly if you have already experienced medical neglect, or inappropriate attitudes or management due to your illness being viewed as a mental or behavioural disorder.
      4. We will place this item at the ME Awareness 2017 section of the 25% ME Group website so that if you have web access, you can download a copy to edit.

About the Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health (JCP-MH) [www.jcpmh.info](http://www.jcpmh.info)

The JCP-MH came into being in 2011, and (ostensibly) publishes guides to what a good service should look like. Their scope is mental health and learning disability.

* The JCP-MH describes itself as ‘a collaboration between leading organisations’ and lists a wide variety - including several medical Royal Colleges, the Department of Health, representatives of the English Strategic Health Authorities, several mental health charities and support organisations, and ‘service users and carers’.
* It is jointly chaired by a representative of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (currently Dr Sridevi Kalindini) and a representative of the Royal College of GPs (currently Dr Elizabeth England).

About the ‘MUS’ publication

1. See: [www.jcpmh.info/good-services/medically-unexplained-symptoms](http://www.jcpmh.info/good-services/medically-unexplained-symptoms)
2. People involved in production of this document, published February 2017:

* Co-chairs Carolyn Chew-Graham (GP, NHS Manchester; Professor of General Practice Research, Keele University; Honorary Professor of Primary Care Mental Health, South Staffs and Shropshire Foundation Trust) *and* an author of the ‘FINE’ trial publication\*; [[1]](#footnote-1)\*and Simon Heyland (Consultant Psychiatrist in Medical Psychotherapy, Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust).
* There was an ‘expert reference group’ and an ‘advisory group’.

1. The Countess of Mar has asked a Parliamentary Question about this issue [ref: HL6204]. The response from Lord O’Shaughnessy, Department of Health stated:

* The Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health is not a Government body, it is a collaboration between 17 leading organisations including the Department of Health, and is co-chaired by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of General Practitioners. The Department was not closely involved in the writing or production of this document. [www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-20/HL6204/](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-20/HL6204/)

***We would be interested to hear of response to your letters - please do feedback to us, if you can.***

1. \* \* *Nurse led, home based self help treatment for patients in primary care with chronic fatigue syndrome: randomized controlled trial*. AJ Wearden, C Dowrick C Chew-Graham, RP Bentall, RK Morris, S Peters, L Riste, G Richardson, K Lovell, G Dunn, BMJ 2010; 340; c1777 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)