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### **History of the Forum**

In April 1991 responsibility for wheelchair provision was devolved to local health authority level.

During 1991 the development of the Forum began. A meeting of wheelchair service managers was arranged and the first Forum met in November 1991 in London. The first formal meeting of the Forum was in February 1992. A draft constitution was written and later ratified. The first committee was established.

### **Structure of the Forum**

Each Strategic Health Authority (2002) can be represented by two members. An alternative guest representative may be nominated. Other wheelchair managers or their representatives are welcomed to attend meetings as observers

Members feedback to their local Wheelchair Managers and circulate Forum minutes to all Wheelchair Managers in their region. (Forum minutes are also available on the website) They also raise regional concerns at the National Forum.

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### **Work of the Forum**

The Forum provides the focus for discussion and exchange of ideas on topics relevant both at local and national level. A Forum website was set up in 2002

The Forum has always been concerned with setting of wheelchair service standards, their development and improvement to maximise the outcome for service users.

In 1993 a working party produced a booklet "National Guidelines for Wheelchair Services".

Work has continued on developing standards and in 2004 the Forum together with other interested parties including Empower, Posture and Mobility Group, the National Forum of Wheelchair Users Groups and NHS PASA produced a document "Minimum Standards for Wheelchair Services".

### **Forum Website**

[www.wheelchairmanagers.nhs.uk](http://www.wheelchairmanagers.nhs.uk)

The website has details of wheelchair services and a list of names and addresses of regional representatives to the forum.

Staff vacancies can be advertised on the website.

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### **Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference for the Forum are:

- To provide a representative body for Wheelchair Services at National Level.
  - To act as a communication channel for Wheelchair Services at Local, Regional and National Levels.
  - To initiate and develop quality standards and practice within the Wheelchair Service.
  - To continue to promote and support audit within the Wheelchair Service.
  - To act as a co-ordinating body for the collection and dissemination of information from:  
Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency  
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency  
RESMag  
BSI Standards Committee
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## Link

The forum extends links with, and in some instances sends representatives to:

Department of Health  
Posture and Mobility Group  
British Healthcare Trades Association  
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy  
College of Occupational Therapists  
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency  
EmPower  
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency  
WhizzKidz  
British Standards Institute  
Rehabilitation Engineering Services Managers Group  
National Forum of Wheelchair Users Groups  
Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People

February 2005

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## For further information contact

**NWMF Website:**  
**[www.wheelchairmanagers.nhs.uk](http://www.wheelchairmanagers.nhs.uk)**

Your Local Forum Representative:

Wheelchair Service:

Tel:  
Fax:  
Email:

Forum Secretary:  
Alex Winterbone  
Manager  
Independent Living Services East  
Chantry Clinic  
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# NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR MANAGERS' FORUM

The nwmf logo, featuring the lowercase letters 'nwmf' in white on a black rectangular background.

**nwmf**

National Wheelchair Managers Forum