

PRESS RELEASE

Professor Helen Roberts appointed to NICE Board

NICE has announced that Professor Helen Roberts has been appointed as a Non-Executive Director to the NICE Board.

Helen Roberts is a Professor of Child Health at City University where she runs the Child Health Research and Policy Unit. She is familiar with the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) sector and worked for a decade as Head of Research & Development at Barnardo's.

Professor Roberts said. " I am looking forward to playing a part in NICE as a citizen and as a researcher in child health. Fair allocation of resources depends on good quality research to underpin decisions. I have been impressed by the transparency of NICE, the development of the Citizens Council, and by the frank acknowledgement of the part played by values in this arena."

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Chair of NICE, said: "I am delighted that Helen has been appointed as Non-Executive Director of the NICE Board. Helen has a wealth of experience in healthcare, specifically in the area of children's health, and she will make an important contribution to the work of NICE."

Ends

Contact Amy Pott on 0207 067 5835 for further information.

Notes to Editors

About NICE

1. NICE is part of the NHS. It is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on treatments and care for those using the NHS in England and Wales. Its guidance is for healthcare professionals and patients and their carers to help them make decisions about treatment and healthcare. For further information about NICE you can visit www.nice.org.uk.
2. NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:
 - the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales – technology appraisals.
 - the appropriate treatment and care of patients with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS in England and Wales – clinical guidelines.
 - whether interventional procedures used for diagnosis or treatment are safe enough and work well enough for routine use – interventional procedures.

NICE also funds three enquiries that undertake research into the way patients are treated to identify ways of improving the quality of care (the investigations are known as confidential enquiries).

3. NICE guidance and recommendations are prepared by independent groups that include professionals working in the NHS and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers.

About Professor Helen Roberts

4. Helen Roberts is a Professor of Child Health in the Institute of Health Sciences, City University where she runs the Child Health Research and Policy Unit. She is familiar with the NGO Sector, and worked for a decade as Head of Research & Development at Barnardo's.
5. Helen is a social scientist with a special interest in looking at the ways in which reviews of evidence can be made more relevant, more interesting and more readable to the people who use them, whether they are healthcare workers, patients or carers.
6. In the past, she has been a health authority member in Camden and Islington, has been on a Health Action Zone board, and was part of a Primary Care Group.