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‘Celebrating the achievements, sharing the learning’ conference to show pioneering work in Lambeth and Southwark to modernise sexual health, stroke and kidney disease services

A conference at the **Mermaid Conference and Events Centre, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London on 11th May from 9.00am – 5.00pm** will provide healthcare staff, health policy makers, service users and carers with an opportunity to learn more about a major project to improve sexual health, stroke and kidney disease services.

The Modernisation Initiative Conference is a free one day event which will celebrate the achievements and share the learning of the £15million grant awarded by Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity to address the three health care areas which have been selected as priorities for improvement.

Fran Woodard, Director said: “The Modernisation Initiative is a true partnership approach involving hospital, primary care trust, community health service staff, and service users and carers. The event will provide an opportunity for us to share the outcomes of our pilot programmes and demonstrate the benefits to patients, alongside improvements in service delivery.”

A keynote presentation will be given by Michael McGrath, the first disabled person to have conquered both the North and South Poles, on his experience of overcoming barriers and pushing boundaries.

Other presentations will be given by staff, including Chris Bull, Chief Executive of Southwark Primary Care Trust and patients, such as Margaret Elliot, who has been treated at King’s College Hospital for kidney disease and underwent a kidney transplant, donated by her son, at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust.

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Through the Modernisation Initiative Margaret has been trained to offer peer support for patients with kidney disease. She said: "Through peer support sessions I can help people to see how they can live with their kidney disease and to share my experience of the treatment options."

Workshops throughout the day will share the outcomes and learning of the three Modernisation Initiative projects' understanding and application of innovative approaches to service delivery, including:

- Bringing it all together - how to develop a network of sexual health services
- Not another patient satisfaction survey: Meaningful user involvement
- One size doesn't fit all: offering a tailored dialysis service
- Improving community stroke services
- Getting it right early: Hypertension prevention in Lambeth and Southwark
- Peer support and self care for people with long-term conditions
- Personal and self development topics

Geoff Shepherd, Chief Executive of Guy's and St Thomas Charity, who is chairing the conference said: "This is a significant event in the local health calendar and will enable people to see how the Modernisation Initiative has bridged gaps between services and improved the patient experience. It will enable delegates to understand the challenges faced in making significant changes within the health systems in Lambeth and Southwark, which will help inform the future modernisation of health services across the UK."

Places at the conference are limited. For more information and to reserve a place please register your interest via the Modernisation Initiative website at www.modernisation-initiative.net or contact the event team on Tel: 0845 303 3335 or email: MIbookings@maximum-events.co.uk

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Notes to News Editors:

1. The Modernisation Initiative

Guy's and St Thomas' Charity has set aside £15million to support the modernisation of local health care services in the area of kidney disease, stroke and sexual health services. The initiative involves staff at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, King's College Hospital NHS Trust, Lambeth and Southwark Primary Care Trusts and South East London Strategic Health Authority. The funding has so far enabled the three project teams to develop the partnerships, begin ongoing consultation and develop pilot programmes. The Initiative aims to:

- Fast track local change and improvement initiative
- Applies an evidence base to proposed changes
- Involve patients and users in identifying changes
- Bringing about cultural change that genuinely put the patients at the heart of service delivery
- Develops sustainable improvements which can be mainstreamed by the NHS in the future

The Charity has set aside funding for an independent evaluation of the Modernisation Initiative which is being carried out by a team from University College London and King's College London.

2. Guy's and St Thomas' Charity is the largest NHS-related Charity in the UK. It provides funding to support health services in Lambeth and Southwark and to benefit the wider NHS. For more information contact Kate Dawson, Head of Communications on Tel: 020 7 188 1218 or out of hours mobile: 0772 2119 1570 or email: kate.dawson@gsttcharity.org.uk. You can also visit the Charity's website at www.gsttcharity.org.uk