

# Dignity Code appeal to NHS staff

CREWE pensioners are calling on NHS nurses, doctors and care workers to sign up to the new Dignity Code.

Produced by the National Pensioners Convention, the code calls on nurses and carers to always to obtain consent for treatments and demands that elderly people are allowed to speak for themselves either directly or, in cases where this is no longer possible, through a friend, relative or advocate.

It also requires carers to address older people formally rather than by their first names unless they are invited to do otherwise.

The code is backed by Care Minister Paul Burstow and his Labour Shadow, Liz Kendall as well as charities, trade unions and academics.

In all, 21 public figures including the heads of Age UK, the Royal College of Nursing, the TUC, and the Care Qual-

ity Commission have signed a letter of support.

It is hoped the code will be on display in every care home, doctor's surgery and hospital ward and be made a central plank of training.

Hugh Emerson, secretary of the Northern Pensioners Association Crewe and District, said: "For too long too many elderly people in hospitals and in care have been ignored, denied the basic right to speak for themselves or make up their own mind.

"Too often they are treated like objects and passed around the care system like parcels.

"We hope every care and health organisation in Cheshire East will sign up to the code.

"And we invite them to let us know either through our website or by emailing me at [sec@npa-crewe.org.uk](mailto:sec@npa-crewe.org.uk)."

■ To download the code visit [www.npa-crewe.org.uk](http://www.npa-crewe.org.uk).