# Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust introduces wheel of privilege in allyship training



Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (SFHT) has introduced a "wheel of privilege" as part of an optional "allyship training" module aimed at helping staff understand dynamics of marginalisation and power within society. The wheel, which categorises levels of privilege based on characteristics such as race, body size, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status, ranks those who are white, thin, straight, and financially comfortable as holding the most power. Conversely, the diagram identifies individuals with darker skin, those experiencing poverty, individuals who are transgender, and those who are larger-bodied as occupying the least powerful positions.

This initiative forms part of a voluntary training package designed to supplement the Trust’s mandatory diversity training. The programme is available for staff engagement across Sherwood Forest Hospitals, including the Sutton-in-Ashfield hospital run by the Trust.

The privilege wheel has attracted criticism from some quarters. A veteran Conservative Member of Parliament, representing a Lincolnshire constituency, described the tool as promoting “half-baked, intellectually vacuous” identity politics. Speaking to the Express, the MP highlighted potential drawbacks in the approach, saying: “This kind of nonsense can have a vicious effect in that if you happen to be a white person who might be facing challenges – these could be health issues, or being widowed, or caring for elderly parents – that person could still be deemed to be privileged.” He further pointed out the complexities of privilege, noting, “Yet if you are rich, black and portly you are still considered to be somewhat under-privileged (according to the wheel).”

The introduction of this training module comes amid ongoing debates about identity, power structures, and professional environments within public sector organisations. The Trust’s efforts reflect a wider interest in fostering awareness around systemic inequalities, although this latest scheme has sparked discussion about how concepts of privilege are defined and communicated to healthcare staff.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/nhs-trust-nottingham-wheel-privilege-woke> - This article discusses Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's use of a 'wheel of privilege' to help staff understand different levels of privilege, which corroborates the introduction and purpose of the wheel. It also highlights the criticism the initiative has received from various groups.
2. <https://www.gbnews.com/news/nhs-white-privilege-woke-madness> - Although this article refers to a different NHS Trust, it provides context on similar training initiatives within the NHS that focus on privilege and the challenges faced by staff when discussing sensitive topics.
3. <https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/sar_report/sar_tti_22.pdf> - This document does not directly relate to the topic but highlights broader discussions around social and economic issues. However, it doesn't offer specific support for the claims made about the NHS training.
4. <https://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/media/rpbda2g0/foi-552-inclusive-language-guide-internal-diversity-training-280225.pdf> - This PDF provides insight into Sherwood Forest Hospitals' diversity and inclusion initiatives, though it does not specifically address the 'wheel of privilege'. It shows the Trust's commitment to diversity and inclusion training.
5. <https://nhsproviders.org/inclusive-leadership/improvements-and-shortcomings-in-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-a-conversation-with-navina-evans-and-richard-mitchell> - This link discusses broader issues of equality, diversity, and inclusion within the NHS, providing context for the kinds of initiatives Sherwood Forest Hospitals is undertaking, though it does not directly address the 'wheel of privilege'.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is mentioned as the source for the original article but does not provide additional corroboration since it is not specific to a relevant webpage or article discussing Sherwood Forest Hospitals' 'wheel of privilege' initiative.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2047691/woke-nhs-trust-tells-staff> - Please view link - unable to able to access data