

Locality Groups

Package of information and guidance for potential new leaders



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Introduction

If you're reading this, we hope that this means that you are interested in starting a Heaven in Healthcare Locality Group, and we're so excited to help you explore the idea. This information package is designed to give you some initial guidance on what these groups are about and how to go about setting up and running a new group, although it is by no means comprehensive. Indeed our hope is that each group will develop its own character and community, and each group is bound to have a slightly different flavour, albeit with the 'DNA' of HiH running through its activities and culture.

Heaven in Healthcare's mission - a recap

HiH exists to help
Christians working
in health connect,
learn, and be inspired
to release heaven
wherever they go.

As you might know already, in a nutshell Heaven in Healthcare exists to help Christians working in any area of health or social care or indeed wellbeing to connect, learn, and be inspired to release heaven wherever they go.

First and foremost, we're a Presence-led, rather than a programme-driven, movement. This means we believe in valuing first and foremost the manifest Presence of God. Nothing's more important than that! And we're here to encourage one another to cultivate lifestyles that release the limitless resources of heaven into our everyday lives and the world of healthcare.

Our Core Values

Heaven in Healthcare's mission is to support, enable, inspire and encourage. Hence, in our Locality Groups we place value on:

- First and foremost the presence, power & love of God (this is the 'heaven' part of the name!)
- Seeking God's heart for global healthcare transformation
- Creating cultures that encourage, inspire and support
- The power of the testimony to release breakthrough
- Creating a framework for Christians with a passion for healthcare reform to realise their dreams

The Heart and purpose of Locality Groups

Our desire is for Locality Groups to be geographical representations of the Heaven in Healthcare culture – mini HiH hubs, if you like, across the UK, and indeed the world. We want them to provide supportive environments for like-minded individuals to explore how they might bring heaven to earth within their lives and workplaces. We want them to be places of inspiration where Christians can connect with each other across the many healthcare vocations, and provide motivation and encouragement. We want them to be more than another ‘appointment’ in a busy calendar, and to provide an opportunity for growth and development amidst busy lives. We want people to care for each other and to seek God for each other....but more ideas on how to do that later.



A word from our founder, Pete Carter

Pete is the founder of Heaven in Healthcare and heads up the leadership team. He inspires both the team and our wider network of members with his passion for putting heaven into healthcare. As a Doctor, his vision has always been to see God-given medicine working alongside miracles of healing, which can clearly be seen in his teaching, his equipping and his leading.

Pete tells us:

“Some key things that I have always wanted Heaven in Healthcare to achieve from the outset is to inspire, encourage, equip, inform and connect Christians who work in the Healthcare sector. We want them to gain confidence about carrying and using the resources of heaven in their work setting and their wider everyday lives.

Our Locality Groups are a hugely important tool in making this happen across the HiH world. In providing a small group setting where these things can be outworked in a more intimate way, we’ve been delighted to watch friendships being built, and support and encouragement found. These groups operate independently and have the freedom to form their own programme but we want them to be able to draw upon the support of a central team and indeed the other locality groups that are taking place around the

world.

Hence, we are developing this guide and other new resources for potential and existing group leaders to help them on their way. We are so proud of our leaders, their groups and the HiH community at large as we watch them engage with the mission of HiH in their local areas.”



Pete Carter
Founder

Our current Locality Groups

There are currently a number of Locality groups which run across the country and abroad, with new groups being added all the time. So if you decide that you can't set up a new group at this time, check our website heaveninhealthcare.com for details about the groups which have already been established, or contact the Enquiries Hub at enquiries@heaveninhealthcare.com for up-to-date information on local groups.

Case Study – Southampton

When I first connected with Heaven in Healthcare at Eastgate I was unable to stop talking or thinking about it! My eyes were opened to a greater understanding and experience of how God can use me as a Spirit filled healthcare professional to show his love to those around me. I started to see miracles happening when I prayed for people and experienced an internal sense of coming alive more fully in my relationship with God.

I wanted everyone else I knew who was a Christian in healthcare to hear about Heaven in Healthcare and to be a part of it too. As a result of this I invited Christian healthcare workers who I knew through church, work and other connections if they wanted to meet up to hear about it. Initially this was as a one off evening to share why I was so excited about the Heaven in Healthcare vision and to encourage others to connect in with the network. Following this the group began to emerge and was strengthened by discovering others already involved with Heaven in Healthcare who lived in the same area. The group has continued to run now for the last 4 years in various forms including zoom during the covid pandemic.

Meeting up in small groups with others who share the Heaven in Healthcare vision is so valuable to build relationships and to work out together what this vision looks like on the ground in our

different roles. It's wonderful when we can all get together at the Heaven in Healthcare conference and we see and are part of the bigger picture and hear of all that God is doing across the world. For each of us to outwork this vision in our busy and often stressful roles in healthcare it is so helpful to get to know and connect with others who share this vision in a smaller local setting so that we can walk together and work out together how to live this vision out day by day.

When we meet together as the locality group we prioritise being in God's presence together – this includes sharing good news, worshipping together, getting to know one another better and praying and prophesying over each other. Between meetings we stay connected via a Whatsapp group which we use to share testimonies and areas for prayer.



Miriam Hattersley
Group Leader

HiH Champions

It's worth mentioning that if you end up committed to leading a Locality Group and being involved in our community in this way, you'll be considered one of our key players; an 'ambassador' if you like. As such you might be interested in extra support and encouragement which we offer via a special group called the HiH Champions. The HiH Champions come together via Zoom from across the world a few times a year, and form an exciting collection of people who are heavily invested in the spreading and propagating mission of HiH globally and who wish to intentionally connect with each other, led by Pete Carter. Alongside these meetings, there is an established WhatsApp group which allows the group to communicate throughout the year and share good news and prayer requests with each other.

Susie Hunt, one of our HiH Champions, based in Cambridge, tells us...

"HiH Champions is a place of elevation, motivation and cheering on.... we link arms and run together with other motivated God lovers 'desperate and delighting' to bring in Kingdom to our spheres of influence.

HiH Champions reminds me I'm part of something much bigger going on in Father's heart for healthcare... it lifts my gaze, raises

my faith bar, a powerful prophetic engine room of people where I find myself both understood and deeply encouraged.... HiH Champions says I am not alone ...and God is more, expect of Him."



Susie Hunt
HiH Champion

How to get started

The first place to start would be to collect people together from your local area with a view to having your first gathering. Aside from praying and asking God to bring people your way, there are two practical routes towards this.

Church

The first way forward would be to explore who might be interested in joining a HiH Locality group via your local church or other churches that you have relationships with locally. This will depend a little bit on whether there is the freedom and opportunity within your church community to set something up – and the stance of the leadership team.

Some churches might be amenable to you setting up a HiH Locality group as part of a Connect group offering or similar. Some churches might be open to you setting up a group that is distinct from the church's own groups but which perhaps meets within the church building.

Good ways to find people who might be interested in being part of this group within your congregation would be a church bulletin, newsletter, website, an announcement in the notices. Perhaps prepare a short notice which can be given out by each Connect group leader within the church to their groups with a contact number or email address to follow up with.

Finally, don't underestimate the power of informal networking; engaging people and chatting with them after church meetings or in Zoom forums and engaging them in conversation so that connections can be made. There may well be healthcare

professionals in your midst that are looking to meet others in the same position and hungry to see more of God in their workplaces. There may also be enthusiastic and supportive individuals who simply wish to stand alongside others in the healthcare community. All are welcome.

Workplace

The other route forward would be to look into who you might have within your workplace. Some workplaces already have pre-existing workplace faith groups which you could perhaps work alongside or join in with, although this might inevitably look a bit different to a church-based or home-based Locality group as it would take on the flavour of the workplace. There might also be the challenges of fitting into the broader picture of multi faith spaces. If this is more the sort of thing that interests you, and you are looking for more information and advice about this, you could contact Ros Loader at [Transform Work](#).

Ultimately, finding like-minded Christians in the workplace who might want to join a Locality Group is probably more about getting to know colleagues and networking across the organisation in more informal ways. You might even find other Christians who don't necessarily express the Heaven in Healthcare culture, but who want to find out more and have a desire to explore what we are all about. Again, our heart is to be inclusive and for people to discover this, and if a HiH Locality group can be part of their journey, we're delighted.

Finding the right venue

Many of our Locality groups meet in someone's home, which tends to work well in terms of providing an atmosphere conducive to feeling comfortable, and sharing lives with each other, rather than it being 'just another meeting'. It might be worth exploring whether there is someone who can offer their home to host, or perhaps doing this on a rota basis so that different people host each month.

Equally, you might end up with a large group which would be more suited to meeting in public space or a room within a church. Of course, Zoom can also be used on occasion if this helps, although connection is better and easier in person – certainly while you are trying to establish a new group and get people involved and feeling at home.



Practical pointers

Unsurprisingly, we have found that groups that provide hospitality, including food and drink work well, particularly as this can allow people to come straight from work without having to go home and eat beforehand. This means an earlier start time, which can also be beneficial for people with busy working lives. As with all groups of this kind, do think about having a set start and finish time and try to commit to this so that people know that their time will be honoured.

Meetings

Alongside hospitality, food and drink, each meeting typically includes:

- Sharing Good News. Make this a habit as sharing victories and stewarding testimonies well together will encourage that sense of being on a 'journey'.
- Worship (this needn't be live complicated; playing some worship music on a mobile phone to encourage singing is more than enough). You don't need words – just make Holy Spirit central
- Sharing some topic of interest to members
- Prayer

A meeting should always be oriented to allow Heaven to overtake any programme as the essence of Heaven in Healthcare is inviting/releasing Heaven. Groups should be supportive in a positive way towards people's God-given potential, not centred around personal problems in the meeting, although looking to help people as appropriate through friendship.

As mentioned before, any believer associated with the provision of health, social care and wellness is welcome at a Locality Group. We tend towards inclusiveness, rather than excluding people who are not strictly healthcare professionals.

Other ideas

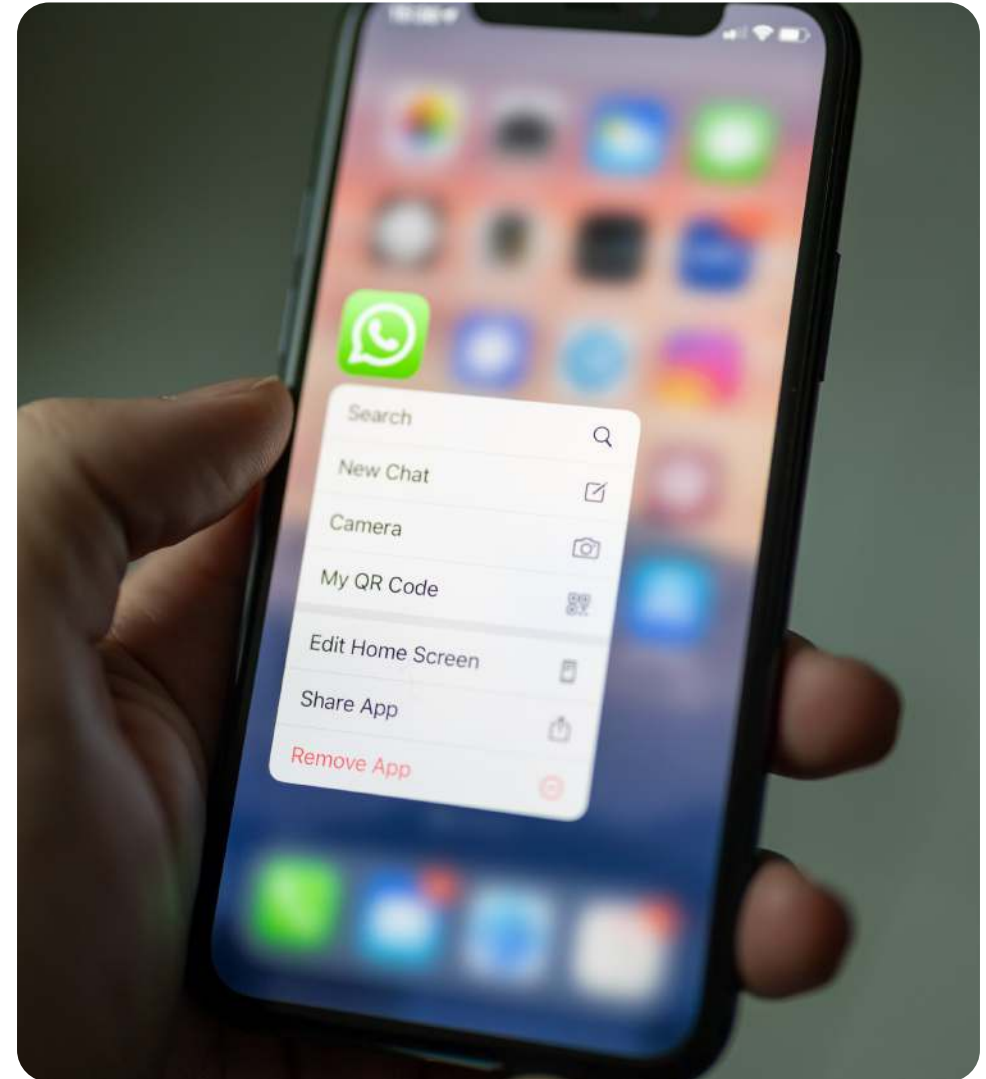
- You might want to think about special guests who you can ask to come along or Zoom into your meeting. Perhaps plan some sessions ahead of time and think about booking in some one-off speakers or contributors who might be able to do a small segment or offer some expertise or advice on a certain subject; even share a special testimony.
- You might want to look at certain topics, a series, or some key themes. There may be topics that people want to learn about and explore along the lines of bringing heaven to earth in the workplace. Our website heaveninhealthcare.com is a good place to look for ideas.
- We would suggest that you take a look together at a series of 7 core videos which are included free of charge via our website entitled 'God's dream for Healthcare'. In this conversational series, medical doctor Pete Carter is joined by guests from the world of healthcare and Christian healing, as they explore some of the core values and beliefs needed to see the world of healthcare filled with the resources of heaven. One idea would be to use this series as a foundational learning exercise for the group, and to cover a video a week for the first seven sessions. Perhaps ask group participants to watch one short episode before

each meeting and come prepared to discuss it together. This will give individuals in the group a really good starting point in terms of understanding what the HH mission is all about and deciding whether they want to be part of it. To help you along, we have prepared full transcripts for each episode and some questions for discussion.

- You could pick a book, for example Pete Carter's book 'Unwrapping Lazarus' and work through this together. There are lots of other books which have workbooks and group resources linked to them. We can offer further ideas.
- Seek God for each other and encourage the use of Spiritual gifts such as prophecy to build each other up.
- Make sure to put some regular Social events in the calendar as your group develops so that you are building friendships, prioritising fun, and taking the opportunity to celebrate together.

WhatsApp group

This is a useful thing to set up within your group to help get your Locality Group established and to share life, chat and prayer points across the whole month – not just when you physically gather together. If you are not sure how to do this, you can contact us at our enquiries hub for more support on enquiries@heaveninhealthcare.com. Certainly the first port of call is to collect people's mobile phone numbers.



Other pointers

As a Locality Group Leader, we would love you to:

- Attend the annual HiH conference to maintain a connection to the wider movement
- Model best practice behaviour when using our **Facebook group** – regularly sharing testimonies, commenting on discussions, being an active source of encouragement
- Engage with news and updates from HiH centrally so that you can help disseminate information to your local participants who might have missed newsletters or blogs
- Participate in Locality Group training via video conference at certain times.

Sources of information and help

- Contact Helen at enquiries@heaveninhealthcare.org.uk for more information or with any queries.
- Check out our website heaveninhealthcare.com
- Engage with our conference materials and other video resources via the HiH website or YouTube channel.
- Make sure you are signed up to receive our HiH updates and newsletters via email if you aren't already. This will allow you to keep abreast of all that is happening in our community.
- Take a look at our HiH Facebook page where - we have a new [private group](#) available to members where you can interact with each other across the HiH network, not just centrally.

That's about it. Thanks for being part of the movement. We know you're going to be amazing!



Helen Davies
Team Member