

October 2017 e-bulletin

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healthwatch
Somerset



Dear friend,

Welcome to the first of our new monthly e-bulletins. Here you will find all the latest news from Healthwatch Somerset - the county's independent health and care champion.

Each month we will keep you up to date on the work we are doing and the impact this is making locally, plus keep you informed of local engagement events and ways you can get involved.

Please share this e-bulletin with your friends - they can join our mailing list by emailing: info@healthwatchsomerset.co.uk



A voice for the people of Somerset

People in Somerset will be given a strong voice to air their views on health and care services in the county – thanks to plans by Evolving Communities, the new provider of the local Healthwatch service.

Somerset County Council has appointed Evolving Communities to provide the local Healthwatch service starting today (1 October 2017).

Initial work this month will include:

- Welcoming the staff team
- Setting up the local Somerset office
- Planning key priorities with members of the Executive Group
- And meeting volunteers, local groups and visiting key forums.

Chris Graves, chair of Evolving Communities, said: "We are looking forward to building on what's been achieved so far and would like to thank the previous provider - The Care Forum - for all its help to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities.

"The role of a local Healthwatch is to make sure the health and care system in the area meets the need of the people who use it. We gather feedback from patients and their families on services such as GP surgeries, care homes, hospitals, mental health services and care.

"We then take these findings to the organisations which plan, pay for and deliver health and care services. We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with the people of Somerset under this new contract and we're looking forward to working with local people on the health and care issues which matter to them the most."

For more details on Healthwatch Somerset visit the new [website](#).



Healthwatch Somerset is the county's independent health and care champion. We exist to ensure that people are at the heart of care.

Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers listen to what people like about local health and care services, and what could be improved.

These views are then shared with the decision-making organisations in the county, so together we can make a real difference.



The Healthwatch Somerset service is run by Evolving Communities CIC, a community interest company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 08464602. The registered office is at Unit 5 Hampton Park West, Melksham, SN12 6LH.

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