

local health and care shaped by you

**healthwatch**  
Somerset



Volunteer  
with us!

Help make  
health  
and care  
services  
better for people  
in Somerset.

# Together we can help to change health and care services for our local community

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**.

People can also speak to us to find information about health and social care services available locally.



## Volunteer with us!

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do, from talking to people about their experiences of local health and care services, to sitting on our board of directors. Whatever your background, your time and your talent could make a real difference in your local community.



### Local Healthwatch Volunteer

You can support us by talking to people, gathering opinions about local health and care services and acting as an ambassador for us at events and meetings.



### Enter and View Volunteer

This role involves visiting health and care services in the county to speak to patients, carers and relatives about their experiences. As an authorised Enter and View Volunteer

you will receive full training and report back your findings in a published report.



### Healthwatch Associate

This is a more informal volunteering role. We will keep you up to date with information about our events and activities as well as asking you to take part in our surveys and consultations. You can also be part of our Readers

Panel which involves looking at leaflets and documents for various health and social care agencies and making suggestions on how they can be improved.

"I have lost one leg and have a keen interest in the way health services are run. Volunteering keeps me young and I enjoy meeting a lot of different people, whilst also helping to give local people a voice."



**Cliff, from Burnham-on-Sea and a Healthwatch Somerset volunteer.**



### Project Volunteer

Are you good with paperwork? As a Project Volunteer, you can help us compile research and feedback from members of the public. You can also help us to organise health and social

care events and consultations or provide assistance with day-to-day administration for the team of staff and volunteers at the main Healthwatch Somerset office.



### Steering Group member

The Steering Group oversees the operation of Healthwatch Somerset and provides recommendations to the board of Evolving Communities - the parent community interest company which is responsible for the activities

of the organisation. As a Steering Group member, you will also help to set priorities for ongoing activities.

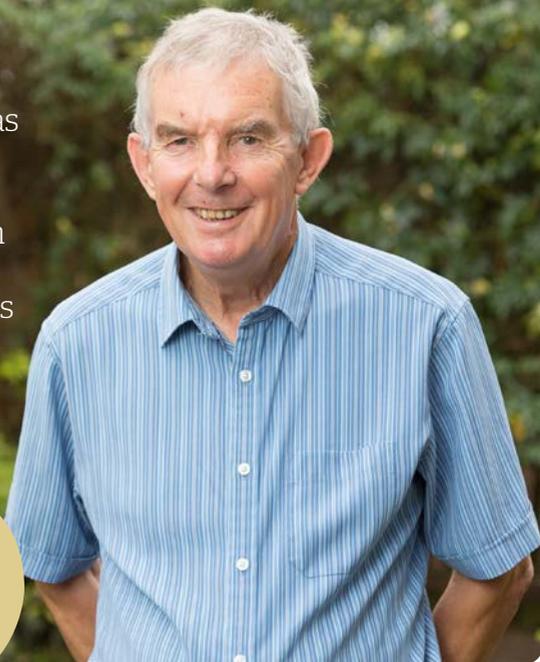


“I volunteer to encourage the local authority and health bodies to see the value and benefit of working together to shape local health and care services. Volunteering could simply mean giving a few hours a week to pop some leaflets into your local library, shop or GP surgery to help raise awareness about Healthwatch and the difference we can make by working together.”

**Volunteer Rachel from Somerton, who has two adult sons with autism and learning disabilities.**

“I am currently receiving treatment for Parkinson's Disease and the support has been brilliant. I volunteer to make a difference to the way the NHS is delivered in Somerset and find there's a wide range of opportunities open to me. To anyone thinking of volunteering with Healthwatch I would say try it!”

**David, from South Ch...**  
**a volunteer with He...**  
**Somerset.**



# Join us and help shape local health and care in Somerset.

From the satisfaction of helping to shape local health and care services, to learning new skills and meeting new people, volunteering offers so many rewards.

- A chance to learn new skills with a dedicated team on hand to support you through training and online resources.
- Give something back and provide useful input into health and care services.
- Develop new connections with people in your local community.
- Volunteering offers structure and routine to complement your personal life.
- Volunteering is associated with improved health and wellbeing.

If you would like to be a **Healthwatch Volunteer**, find out more:

**01278 264405**

**[info@healthwatchsomerset.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchsomerset.co.uk)**

**[healthwatchsomerset.co.uk](http://healthwatchsomerset.co.uk)**

## We hope to speak to you soon.

 [@HWatchSomerset](https://twitter.com/HWatchSomerset)  [HealthwatchSomerset](https://www.facebook.com/HealthwatchSomerset)

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

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