



## Board members wanted

People with a passion for seeing local health and social care services changed for the better are being sought by Healthwatch Somerset.

Board members will oversee and contribute to the work programme and play a crucial role in monitoring its delivery.

Current Board member Mike Hodson, from Spaxton, in the Quantock Hills, is encouraging others to join. He said: "The people of Somerset need a champion to express their views on health and social care and its improvement and Healthwatch Somerset is at the forefront of that effort." [More details...](#)



## Staff and volunteers join Somerfest

Over 100 local people gave their views on Somerset's 111 service at the county's Somerfest event in Taunton last month.

Staff and volunteers from Healthwatch Somerset spoke to over 100 people at the festivals of arts and culture about their experiences of local health and care services.

Volunteer Alan Kitch from Bridgwater said: "When you are asking people what they think of the 111 service you get a mixed response. Some will say: 'it's awful. I have never used it'. Some have never used it because they are young, fit and healthy. But a surprisingly large number have used it and are happy to tell you what they think.

"And the good news is that most of them will give the service a 'good' to 'very good' rating". Tell us what you think about the [111 service here](#).

## Somerset health and care strategy

Staff and volunteers from Healthwatch Somerset have been involved in talks around the Somerset Health and Care Strategy.



Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group organised a one-day workshop in July at St Gregory Village Hall to hear the views of the public and voluntary groups about its 10 year health and care strategy.

Emily Taylor, Manager at Healthwatch Somerset, said about the event: "It was clear that a lot of people in the room felt that they had done similar events previously to no avail but we have been assured that this time will be different. I was pleased that further context was shared about all six workstreams".

[Read more....](#)

## Meet us at fun days this summer

Have your say on local health and care and have a go on our free lucky dip at Burnham-on Sea's Playday at Apex Park on Wednesday, 1 August, 10am-3pm. Healthwatch Somerset will have a stand at the free fun-filled day.



Other events where you can meet staff and volunteers from Healthwatch Somerset and share your experiences of local health and care services include:

- Talking Cafe, Bridgwater Arts Centre, on Thursday 2 August, 10am-12.30pm.

- Talking Café, the Methodist Church Hall, College Street, Burnham on Sea, on Tuesday 7 August, 10am to 12 noon.
- Family Open Day at Taunton Ambulance Station on Sunday 19 August, 11am to 4pm.
- Irnham Lodge Surgery, on Wednesday 22 August from 9am-12 noon.
- Frome Community Hospital's Minor Injuries Unit on Wednesday 22 August, 9.30am to 1pm.
- Minehead Community Hospital's Minor Injuries Unit on Tuesday 28 August, 10am to 1pm.

[Find out more...](#)

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**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.



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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 4 Hampton Park West, Melksham, SN12 6LH.

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