



## Thanks and good wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas

**A message from Judith Goodchild, Chair of Healthwatch Somerset Board:**

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters, partners, staff and volunteers for their ongoing support and hard work throughout this year. Working with our fantastic Healthwatch Somerset staff and volunteers in what has been a very different situation has been a very rewarding experience. I am extremely grateful to you all for the dedication you have shown in continuing our important work at this time.

"As we look ahead to 2021, I am confident that we will continue to strive to hear as many local voices as possible as we move towards recovery and into a post-Covid world.

"I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!"



## Job vacancy:

# Research and public engagement project support, apply by 8 January

This is a great opportunity to support our research and public engagement projects to help drive improvements in health and social care services in Somerset and beyond. Evolving Communities is the community interest company that runs Healthwatch services independently on behalf of local authorities in Somerset, Dorset and Gloucestershire. [Find out more](#) and please share if you know someone who might be right for this role.



Driving improvements in health and social care services through stakeholder engagement and insight



### JOB VACANCY

## Research Project Support & Engagement Officer

16hrs per week or 69hrs per month | £25,000 FTE

**We're looking for:**

- A skilled researcher and communicator
- Experience of public engagement and service evaluation
- Ability to design projects/surveys and interpret/present findings with clarity and impact

Apply by: 8 January 2021 | Interviews: 14 January 2021

[Find out more](#)  [evolvingcommunities.co.uk/work-for-us/vacancies/](http://evolvingcommunities.co.uk/work-for-us/vacancies/)  
 01225 701851



## Think you need to go to A&E?

# Call NHS 111 First

The NHS want to make it easier and safer for people to get the right treatment when they need it, without waiting a long time in busy A&E departments. With the new NHS 111 First system, if you need urgent medical treatment but not emergency care, NHS 111 can now



book you an appointment at A&E or with your GP, pharmacist, or other treatment centre. To use this service, call 111 or visit [NHS 111 online](#). No one who turns up at A&E should be turned away or asked to call NHS 111. [Find out more...](#)



## Covid vaccination programme gets underway

A vaccine which protects against Covid-19 is now being distributed in the UK as part of the biggest mass vaccination campaign in NHS history. Patients aged over 80, care home residents and frontline health staff and care staff have been identified as priority groups to receive the vaccine. The Somerset-wide vaccination programme for those in the highest priority groups, began at Yeovil Hospital on 9 December. For more information about the vaccination programme: [Covid-19 vaccinations in Somerset - Somerset CCG](#)



## What are your experiences of NHS 111?

In January, we will report on the findings from our recent public feedback survey looking at the regional NHS 111 service. We will share our report with regional and national providers to inform their plans for development and improvement. We will also share our report with Healthwatch England, as they are currently running a national survey to find out about people's experiences of NHS 111. You can take their short online survey here: [www.healthwatch.co.uk/nhs-111](http://www.healthwatch.co.uk/nhs-111)

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## Christmas and New Year closure

The Healthwatch Somerset office will be closed from Thursday 24 December and will re-open on Monday 4 January. If you wish to get in touch during this time, please email [info@healthwatchsomerset.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchsomerset.co.uk) or visit our [website](#) to send a message or to share your feedback. We will respond on our return.

**Speak up and help make health and social care better for you and your community**

**Healthwatch Somerset** is the county's independent health and social 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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