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## What do people think about Somerset's District Nursing Service?



Our new project got under way this month to find out what people think about Somerset's District Nursing Service. District nursing is a long established and vital way to care for people in their own homes and in the community, and developing community services is an important part of Somerset's plan for transforming the NHS.

We are gathering feedback from people who have used the District Nursing Service in the past six months, including patients, family members and carers. We will use their insight to highlight what is working well with the service and where improvements or new ideas could be considered.

[Find out more](#) and encourage people to feedback by 28 March 2021, via our online survey or over the phone: 0800 999 1286 (freephone).

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## Call out for volunteer Young Listeners aged 11-24

We're seeking volunteers aged 11-24 to help us investigate what young people think about the health and care services they use, and what changes they would like to see. We are an accredited centre for AQA's Unit Award Scheme, allowing our Young Listeners to become certified in a whole host of AQA approved training. We



can also facilitate placement hours for those who need them, if their goals align with our project.

If you know someone who might want to volunteer, or who works with young people, let them know about our exciting new Young Listeners project. The closing date for volunteer applications is 15 March. We will then begin training and supporting our Young Listeners to design and deliver the project.

[Find our more and spread the word.](#)

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## Somerset's maternity services improved by listening to local families

Last year, 900 people shared their experiences of maternity care with the Somerset Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP). In its first annual report, published this month, the MVP highlights how they have worked with local families and care providers to make Somerset's maternity services better. Improvements include greater inclusion and support for partners, better antenatal education, more personalised maternity care and continuity of care, and improvements to quality and safety in postnatal care.

[Read more](#) to find out about the work of Somerset's Maternity Voices Partnership.

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## What are the local health impacts of the climate emergency?

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board's new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2019/20, focuses on the health impacts of the climate emergency. The report, produced in conjunction with Somerset's Climate Emergency Strategy, suggests that the direct impact on



health in Somerset is less significant than in poorer and less temperate parts of the world. It reveals that the most significant local impacts are likely to be connected to flooding, with localised flash flooding being the most unpredictable and hardest to prepare for. Mitigation of climate change locally is highlighted as having great potential to improve overall population health.

[Read the full report](#)

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## Healthwatch England welcomes Health and Care White Paper



Healthwatch England has welcomed plans to strengthen health and care legislation and make major changes to the way the NHS is organised. Responding to proposals in the Health and Care White Paper (published 11 Feb), Imelda Redmond CBE, national director at Healthwatch England (pictured left) said:

"The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated how crucial it is that health and social care services work well together and so we need to build on that. Proposals to strengthen collaboration between services is a step in the right direction and can bring real benefits for patients, address the wider factors of health, and support people to live better, healthier lives. We support hundreds of thousands of people across the country every year to share their experiences and views of health and social care. We know the focus on integrating services will be well received by the public who want a more joined up and personalised experience. And so, we particularly welcome the commitment to strengthen and assess patient voice at every level of the system – a crucial step towards helping everyone get the care they need, regardless of age, ethnicity and health conditions..."

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[Read more](#) and find out about the new proposals to join up health and care services.

## 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. We serve the geographical area of Somerset County Council, which includes the districts of Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset and Somerset West and Taunton.



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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