



There's still time to become a Local Board Member

Apply by 31 January to help shape health and social care in Somerset.

If you are passionate about local health and social care services and would like to help bring about positive changes to how services are planned and delivered in Somerset, we would love to hear from you.

We are looking for Local Board Members from across the county, particularly those with a background or interest in mental health or children and young people's services.

As a volunteer Local Board Member, you would play an important role in assessing the quality of local health and social care services and influencing the design of future services. You would oversee and contribute to the Healthwatch Somerset work programme, and you would champion the voices of people in the local community.

There's still time to apply, so if you are interested or you know someone who might be perfect for this role, please visit our [website](#) for more information or contact Hannah Gray, Healthwatch Somerset Manager on: 01278 264405.

Volunteer with us

Healthwatch Somerset is looking for new volunteers to go out into communities across the county, to raise awareness of our work and to listen to what people have to say about local health and social care services.



Whatever your background or experience, whether you are 18 or 80, your time and your talent could make a real difference in your community. There are a variety of ways you can get involved, and plenty of opportunities to learn new skills and meet new people.

We are particularly keen to hear from people who live in or near Yeovil and South Somerset to help with our work in those areas. We are also looking for younger volunteers, to help us develop our work with young people across the county and to work on a new Young Listeners project that we will be launching soon.

Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, we'd love to welcome you into our team. If you're thinking about volunteering with us, please contact our Volunteer Officer, Sheila Burridge, on 01278 264405, or visit our [website](#) to find out more and to complete the short application form (it's easy and there's no obligation).



Job vacancy: Youth Engagement Officer

(12 month fixed-term contract or secondment opportunity)

We are looking for a dynamic, experienced Youth Engagement Officer, to lead an exciting new 'Young Listeners' project.

We want to ensure that children and young people from Somerset are listened to and heard by the people who commission, plan and run health and social care services in the county. You will lead the project, and recruit and support a team of young listeners, who will engage with other children and young people in the county, offering a peer-to-peer approach.

If you are passionate about empowering young people to have their voices heard, and you enjoy working as part of a small, dynamic team who share a can-do attitude, this could be a great opportunity for you.

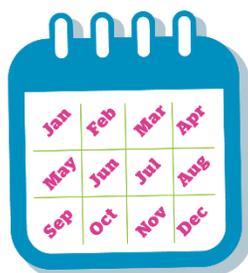
More information and full job details are on our [website](#); the deadline for applications is 23 February (midnight).

Tell us about your health and social care experiences



Sharing your views and experiences of health and social care services can help services to become more effective or highlight where things are done well. You can talk to us when we are out and about in your community or contact us in the following ways:

- Phone: 01278 264405
- Email: info@healthwatchsomerset.co.uk
- Website: healthwatchsomerset.co.uk
- Social media: click on the icons at the bottom of this bulletin



Where to find us in February

We regularly visit libraries and community venues to talk to people and gather feedback about health and social care services. We have the following events planned for February:

Taunton Library (Baby Boogie)
Friday 28 February, 10am - 11.30am

Glastonbury Library
Wednesday 4 February, 11am - 12noon

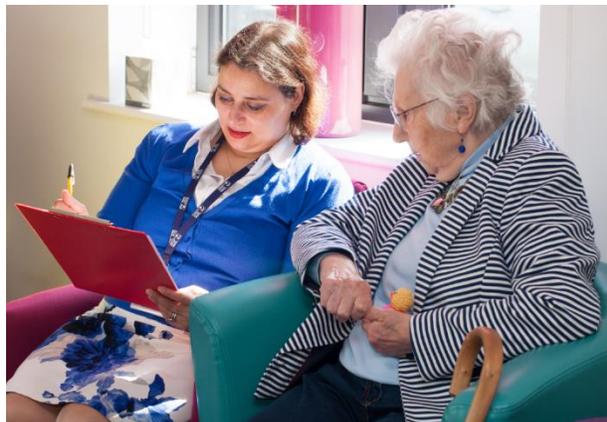
Help develop services for people with life-limiting illness



Dorothy House Hospice Care provides care and support services for people with life-limiting illness, their families and carers. They support people in their own home, in the community, and through day services and residential care provided at the Hospice. Their new virtual quality improvement panel will make it easier for people to share their views from the comfort of their own home, and help Dorothy House develop its services for those who need care and support in the future.

To become a voluntary panel member, you need personal experience of using any of the services provided by Dorothy House. You will be required to complete one or two online surveys and possibly a telephone interview each year (January to March).

[Find out more and apply](#)



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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