

## April e-bulletin

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## Roadshow finishes with more than 400 views on health and care

A roadshow which travelled almost 260 miles around Somerset to find out the views of local people on health and care services has finished its seven-day tour with more than 400 views collected.

Reflecting on the Campervan & Comments Tour, Healthwatch Somerset Manager Emily Taylor said: “A lot of people told us how much they valued and

appreciated NHS services, although access to Primary Care was an issue that came up again and again.

“Less people shared experiences of social care so it is harder to identify trends, but we will be reviewing all the feedback and ensuring that these are shared with the delivery and commissioning organisations. We will also be using it to inform our priorities for our 2019/2020 Workplan.” [Read more...](#)

## Share your views on NHS services for those with learning disabilities and autism in Somerset



Hundreds of children have learning disabilities and autism in Somerset and now families are being asked to help shape local NHS services supporting them.

More than 1,600 children are recorded as living with moderate to severe learning disabilities in Somerset and over 650 schoolchildren have autism, according to NHS figures.

And now local families are being sought to share their views on the NHS services supporting those with learning disabilities and autism in Somerset.

[Find out more...](#)



## Six years of championing people's views of health and care

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Healthwatch Somerset celebrates six years as the county's independent health and care champion this month.

Healthwatch Manager Emily Taylor said, "We're here to make sure that those running services, and the government, put people at the heart of care. We find out what people want and champion for services that meet the local community's needs.

"These views are then shared with the decision-making organisations in the county, so together we can make a real difference." [Read more...](#)

## Let's get chatty!

Local Healthwatch Somerset volunteer Ann Loomes (pictured) has been out and about in Langport speaking to residents and encouraging them to share their views on their local health and social care.



Ann has a stand at the Talking Café in The Angel, Bow Street, Langport every Monday 10-12 noon and welcomes residents to go along and share their experiences and views with her.

Julie Draper, Healthwatch Somerset Volunteer Officer, said: "If you could spare a couple of hours every month to listen to, and share people's feedback with us please get in touch. We provide full training and expenses." [Find out more...](#)

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## Spotlight: sharing your views at strategic meetings

Have you ever wondered what Healthwatch Somerset does with the feedback it gathers from the public?

As part of a new monthly focus, we will share some key facts about the strategic meetings we attend each month - starting with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Healthwatch Somerset has a seat on this board, which looks at people's health and social care needs, as well as considering the bigger picture - things like transport, housing, jobs and leisure - so that services truly help people stay healthy and independent.

Members of the board must look at the evidence of what works best to help target plans and resources.

Healthwatch Somerset's role on the board is to act as an independent voice, representing the views of the public and the users of services. Healthwatch Somerset is represented by our Chair, Judith Goodchild. Emily Taylor, Manager, attends the Health and Wellbeing Executive working group.

More details about the board can be found [here](#).

## Where are we this month?

Share your views on local health and care services and make a difference. Come and meet us at the following locations this month!



- Our volunteer Ann will be at the Talking Café, The Angel, Bow Street Langport every Monday 10am–12pm.
- Monday 15 April – West Mendip Hospital 1pm – 3pm
- Tuesday 16 April – Minehead Hospital 10am – 12pm
- Tuesday 23 April – Frome Hospital 10am – 12pm
- Wednesday 24 April – South Petherton Hospital 10:30am – 12:30pm

[Find out more...](#)

*\*With thanks to Steve Sharples for Campervan photograph.\**

**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.



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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**01278 264405**

**Healthwatch Somerset · Woodlands House · Woodlands Business Park, Bristol Road · Bridgwater,  
TA6 4FJ · United Kingdom**

<http://www.healthwatchesomerset.co.uk>