

August 2019 e-bulletin

[View this email in your browser](#)



Be part of our team

Do you want to make a difference to the way health and social care services are run in Somerset? Do you have a passion for empowering local people to have their voices heard?

If your answer is yes, then take a look at our latest [vacancies](#). Posts include Healthwatch Somerset Manager (closes this Sunday); Volunteer Officer and Engagement Officer.

How easy is it to access support to help you stay healthy in Somerset?



People in Somerset are being asked to share how they access information, support and advice when they are ill, to help shape local services going forward.

Healthwatch Somerset wants to find out if the county's health and care services are doing enough to help people get timely, effective advice and support when their health and wellbeing is at risk.

A short [online questionnaire](#) has been created for people to take part in and share their views and experiences. Staff and volunteers from Healthwatch Somerset will also host focus groups and visit a variety of settings across the county to listen to the general public and note their experiences. [Read more...](#)



The top four things people in Somerset would like to see improved in local NHS services

Quicker and easier access to GPs; active involvement in decisions about their own health; earlier referral to specialist care and access to more help closer to home, were the top four things people in Somerset would like to see improved in their local NHS services

Their views were shared as part of Healthwatch Somerset's What Would You Do? campaign and the findings are revealed in a new [report](#).

More than 260 residents, patients and their families took part in What Would You do? activities, which launched in March to encourage people in the county to share their views about how extra money from the Government should be spent on local NHS services. [Find out more...](#)

New CEO pledges to ensure local voices are heard

The community interest company which runs the Healthwatch Somerset service has announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer.



Lynda Williams (pictured) takes over from Mary Curran who was Evolving Communities CEO from April 2018 to February 2019.

Lynda comes to Evolving Communities with extensive experience in developing and managing organisations. She has spent the majority of her career in the charity sector working across many service areas ranging from community action and capacity building to youth homelessness and the criminal justice system. She has also run women's domestic abuse services and refuge accommodation. [Read more...](#)

Spotlight on local services: JSNA

A strategy to join up information held by various local health and care services about patients has been launched by Somerset's Health and Wellbeing Board.



The new [JSNA for Somerset](#) (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) aims to improve health and social care for people in the county by joining up data between services.

Trudi Grant, Director of Public Health at Somerset County Council, said: "Joining up information about people and places is an essential part of joining up services so that they can be properly 'person-centred' or 'place-based'. It happens already between agencies in Somerset, however, the difficulty is this is often unplanned, and not done in either a timely manner nor with the appropriate level of precision."



Where are we this month?

Staff and volunteers will be out and about in Somerset this summer to listen to the views of local people on health and social care services.

They will be at:

- the **Taunton Ambulance Open Day on Sunday 18 August** 11am-4pm. There will be emergency vehicles on display, as well as live music, face painting, a raffle, food, drink and much more.
- **Glastonbury Library, Wednesday 4 September**, 11am-12 noon. Volunteer Jill Rossiter will be on hand to take feedback on local health and care.
- **Taunton Library, Thursday 5 September**, 10-11.30am. Volunteers Anne Clark & Rena Randall will be looking after the stand ready to listen to local people.

For more details see our [events calendar...](#)

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.



Copyright © 2019 Healthwatch Somerset, All rights reserved.

01278 264405

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

<https://www.healthwatchsomerset.co.uk>