



Healthwatch network reveals priorities for 2019



To mark the start of 2019, Healthwatch England has published its annual network priorities list – setting out the key health and care topics local teams like Healthwatch Somerset will be working on over the year ahead.

The top five priorities nation-wide for 2019 are:

- Primary care (including access to GPs)
- Children and young people
- Mental health
- Services working better together
- Adult social care, including residential care homes or care at home

Healthwatch Somerset's priorities for 2018/20 will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board this month for comment. Judith Goodchild, chair of Healthwatch Somerset said: "We looked at everything we've learnt from the last year and identified key issues affecting people in Somerset accessing health and social care services."

"We agreed to identify priority areas for research, monitoring and communication. This ensures that we not only investigate current issues, but also review recommendations we have previously made and keep the public well informed on topics that may concern them." [Read more...](#)



Could you join a People's Panel?

Have your say on the future of health and social care in Somerset - by joining a new People's Panel.

Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group are looking for people to join the panel and subsequent focus groups, so the public can have their say on the joint [Fit for my Future strategy](#).

Fit for my Future is a new health and care strategy for Somerset created by Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Somerset County Council, in partnership with the two acute hospital trusts and Somerset Partnership to deliver more efficient and effective services.

Emily Taylor, Healthwatch Somerset manager, explained: "The public have been giving their views over the last few months on the 10 year strategy and now it's important people have their say on what proposals should go forward to formal public consultation this autumn."

[Read more](#) or to join the panel, email: somccg.fitformyfuture@nhs.net.

New volunteer in the community

New Healthwatch Somerset volunteer Jill Rossiter is keen to get into her local community and hear what people have to say about health and social care services.



Jill will set up a Healthwatch Somerset stand at Glastonbury Library on the first Wednesday of every month (starting 9 January) to listen to people's experiences of local health and social care services.

Julie Draper, 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." Contact Julie on 01278 264404 or email Julie.Draper@healthwatchesomerset.co.uk.



Out and about in January

Share your experiences of health and social care services with our volunteers and staff this month.

Our volunteer Ann will be at The Angel Community Café, Bow Street, Langport, on 9 January from 2-3.30pm, ready to capture your views.

And Volunteer Officer Julie (pictured) will be at the Talking Café at Bridgwater Arts Centre on 17 January from 10am to 12.30pm. [Find out more...](#)

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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