

June 2019 e-bulletin

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Celebrating our volunteers

Healthwatch Somerset volunteers put on their dancing shoes at a celebration event organised as part of this year's Volunteer's Week.

Staff and volunteers gathered at the Sea Cadets Hall in Bridgwater for a fun-filled afternoon, which featured a line dancing lesson and buffet. The event was held to celebrate Healthwatch Somerset's 40 volunteers who over the last year have contributed 1415 hours of their time.

Julie Draper, Volunteer Officer at Healthwatch Somerset, said: "Our volunteers are amazing, and this Volunteer's Week gave us a chance to thank them publicly for all the work they do." [Read more...](#)

Hundreds share views on local NHS services

Over 260 people have told Healthwatch Somerset what they think would make the NHS better.



Staff and volunteers have been speaking to people throughout Somerset about how they would like to see the changes set out in the NHS Long Term Plan implemented.

The feedback will now go into a report (to be published next month) and this will be shared with local services to inform how the Long Term Plan is implemented in Somerset. [Read more...](#)



Help to lead Healthwatch Somerset

Are you an experienced manager, a good listener and excited about the idea of going out and talking with local people and communities across Somerset? Then [find out more](#) about our latest job vacancy for a Healthwatch Somerset Manager. Vacancy closes 23 June.

Have your say at our next board meeting

Are you interested in local health and social care issues? Then pop along to our next Healthwatch Somerset Board meeting and find out more about what we do or ask questions to our members.

The meeting will be held at St Mary's Church Hall Rooms, North Petherton, Somerset, TA6 6QA, on Monday 29 July from 2pm to 4.30pm (car parking is available in the community centre car park).



Encourage people to talk about end of life care - says Somerset man

Health and social services should openly talk about end of life care and the wishes of patients – says Healthwatch Somerset volunteer Steve.



Steve, from Long Load near Somerton, spoke out as part of Dying Matters awareness week. His own brother Geoff had a positive experience with end of life care and Steve thinks this should be modelled across the county.

He said: "In his final days, Geoff requested to die at home. This was arranged, and a bed and the other things were delivered to his home and set up for him. A few days later he died as he wished at home with his children around him." [Read more...](#)



Welcome to Penny!

Our new Engagement Officer joined the team last month and is excited to meet the people of Somerset to listen to their views on health and social care services. Penny (pictured) has 14 years' experience of working directly with service users including mental health, housing, addictions and the elderly.

She also has a background in research and insight having gained a Masters in Social Research methods.

Penny said: "I am really looking forward to getting out and talking to the public about their experiences of health and social care. In the past I have heard a lot of service user experiences but was never able to use it to make a difference. I am looking forward to being able to champion these views to ensure they are heard by those who can influence."

Spotlight on Somerset Adult Safeguarding Board

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



As part of this month's Spotlight feature, we focus on Somerset County Council's Safeguarding Adults Board's (SSAB) meeting and how we use your feedback to shape local services.

The SSAB, made up of senior people from organisations who have a role in preventing the neglect and abuse from adults, was set up to protect all vulnerable adults in its area who have care or health needs.

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. 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!



Wednesday 12 June - Fondo Lounge, Street - Talking Café - 10am to 11.30am.

Wednesday 12 June – Glastonbury Library - 10am to 12pm.

Friday 14 June - Reprourement of Somerset Respiratory Services Meeting.

Thursday 20 June - Citizens' Assembly Meeting.

Thursday 20 June - Bridgwater Arts Centre - Talking Café – 10am to 12.30pm.

Wednesday 26 June – South West Local Dental Network Meeting.

[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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