

May 2019 e-bulletin

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## Somerset's adult safeguarding service to be improved

New feedback gathered by Healthwatch Somerset on the county's Adult Safeguarding service will be used to improve it for the future.

Better communication through the safeguarding process and clearer information on staying safe in the future were just some of the recommendations made by families, carers and those who have been using the Somerset Adult Safeguarding service.

[Read more](#) in our latest report '*Evaluation of Somerset Safeguarding Service User Feedback Process*' published today.

## How does living in a rural area affect access to healthcare?

A man from Somerset who has been battling cancer for over 50 years believes people who rely on public transport to get to health services are at a serious disadvantage in the county.



Steve Sharples, who lives near Somerton, was first diagnosed with bladder cancer 50 years ago. After treatment he was cured until two years ago when the bladder cancer came back. He has also had skin cancer and problems with his lymph nodes.

77-year-old Steve said: "I have had plenty of first-hand experience of health services both here in Somerset and also in the West Midlands where I previously lived.

"I can still drive but people living in more rural areas of Somerset who have to rely on public transport to get them to hospital, are at a serious disadvantage."

[Find out more](#) and have your say - last chance today!



### Spotlight: on strategic meetings

Have you ever wondered what Healthwatch Somerset does with the feedback it gathers from the public? Each month we will share some key facts about the strategic meetings we go to – this edition's spotlight is on Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) Governing Body meeting.

**Who is the CCG?** They are the authorised commissioner of many of Somerset's health services.

**What's the meeting all about?** Its role is to ensure the CCG functions effectively and economically, delivering the best possible healthcare services for the people of Somerset.

**Who is in the group?** There are two paid statutory lay members and three unpaid lay members on the Governing Body, as well as a seat for Healthwatch

Somerset's Chair Judith Goodchild. All meetings are open to the public to attend.

**What does Healthwatch Somerset do at the meeting?** We 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](#).

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## Views sought over podiatry service changes

The podiatry service in Somerset needs to change in order to make sure enough specialist staff can look after patients - says Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.



The Trust is planning to reduce the number of sites where it provides a podiatry service and this may mean some patients will need to travel further for their podiatry appointments.

Now views are being sought from people who may be affected by these changes. [More details...](#)

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## Take part in free health check

**ONEYOU SOMERSET**

Somerset County Council is offering residents a personalised health score through a 10 min online quiz.

'How Are You' is for over 18s only and is designed to point people in the right direction.

[Take part here](#)

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## 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:

- Every Monday – Ann, a volunteer, will be at the Talking Café, The Angel, Bow Street **Langport** from 10am to 12pm.

First Wednesday of every month – Jill, a volunteer, will be at Glastonbury Library on the first Wednesday of every month from 10am to 12pm.

1st May – Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire Quality Surveillance Group Meeting in **Taunton** - Mike Hodson, Healthwatch Somerset Board Member attending.

1st May - Health and Wellbeing Executive Meeting in **Taunton** - Emily Taylor, Healthwatch Manager and Chair Judith Goodchild attending.

8th May - Fit for my Future Programme Board Meeting in **Yeovil** – Chair Judith Goodchild attending.

14th May - Carers' Voice Somerset Partnership Board Meeting, **Cheddon Fitzpaine** - Bob Champion, Board Member and Manager Emily Taylor attending.

14th May - Clinical Strategy Group Meeting in **Bridgwater** - Chair Judith Goodchild attending.

16th May - Compass Disability Drop-In Event at Bridgwater Town Hall, High Street, **Bridgwater** from 10am to 2pm – Julie Draper attending.

21st May - Reprourement of **Somerset Respiratory Services** Meeting - Bob Champion attending.

23rd May - Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body Meeting, **Yeovil** - Judith Goodchild attending.

For up to date details visit our [events diary](#).

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**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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