

September 2019 e-bulletin

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healthwatch
Somerset



NHS England and NHS Improvement



Have your say on special care dental services

If you or someone you care for use special care dental services in Somerset, then NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE and NHSI) would like to hear from you.

Healthwatch Somerset is collating the views of patients, potential patients, parents, carers and advocates to help shape special care dental services in the region.

Special care dental services treat patients who have a health condition which prevents them from using a high street dentist. [Have your say..](#)

Join our friendly team

Do you feel passionate about the value of volunteering? Are you a good listener and excited about the idea of going out and talking with local people and communities across Somerset?



If you answered yes, we would love to hear from you. Healthwatch Somerset has two staff vacancies (closing date this Sunday 8 September) - roles as a Volunteer Officer and an Engagement Officer. [Find out more...](#)



How easy is it to access the right support to keep well?

People in Somerset are being asked to share how they access information, support and advice when they are ill, looking after someone or finding it difficult to manage living at home, to help shape local services going forward.

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.

Pip Cannons, strategic commissioner for adult social care at Somerset County Council, said: "Somerset County Council and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group are developing a new neighbourhood approach to health and care that aims to strengthen individual and community resilience and wellbeing and help people stay as independent as possible for as long as possible in their own home and community."

[Read more...](#)

Meet us this month at events across the county

Tell us what you think about local NHS services and help make them better for everyone. We will be at the following places this month:



- Volunteer Gill will be at **Glastonbury Library** on Wednesday 4 September, 10am to 12 noon to hear your views on local health and care services.
- Voice your experiences at **Taunton Library** on Thursday 5 September, 10am to 11.30am, where volunteer Anne will on hand to listen.
- And on Tuesday, 17 September, 4-7pm, Healthwatch Somerset Board Members and Volunteers will be at the **Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group's Community Health Fair and Annual General Meeting** at Westlands Entertainment Centre, Yeovil.

[Read 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.



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