

News & views

healthwatch
Gloucestershire

Help us engage with our communities

healthwatch
Gloucestershire

We're recruiting

Engagement Officer (ICS)

37.5 hours a week, £22,411 pa

Engage with people across Gloucestershire to understand how well health and care services work together



Find out
more



healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk/about/vacancies



0800 652 5193 | Closing date: 26 June 2022

This is a great opportunity to help local people influence and improve how health and care services are delivered in Gloucestershire. We're looking for a passionate people person with excellent communications skills, to carrying out community research and engagement projects, and report people's views and ideas for change. If you are interested, or you know someone who would be great for this role, [find out more and apply by 26 June](#).

New report: Promoting the voices of the Deaf community



The Care Quality Commission (CQC) asked us to investigate the health and care experiences of Gloucestershire's Deaf and hearing impaired community to inform their work tackling inequalities in health and social care. We ran a focus group with the Gloucestershire Deaf Association. People told us that English is not the first language for many Deaf people (many use BSL); small adjustments, such as the use of

screens and clear face masks, can have a huge and positive impact; and the system for booking interpreters needs improvement.

[Read our report](#) to find out more, including our recommendations for change.

New report: Digital health care - blood pressure monitoring at home



Blood pressure monitors are one of the many fast-growing solutions that can help people monitor and improve their health in the comfort of their own homes. We teamed up with Healthwatch England to look at local people's experience of monitoring their blood pressure from home, including those taking part in the NHS England [BP@Home](#) pilot programme.

People told us there are many benefits, but there are gaps in GP processes that negatively impact patients' experiences, and this is demotivating and means opportunities to address blood pressure problems could be missed. We also found that access and confidence in using digital technologies can be a barrier for some people. [Read more about what people told us](#) and the steps the NHS can take to improve support and outcomes for patients.

Our priorities for 2022-23



Every year, before deciding on our work programme, we review public feedback and consult with our local health and care partners about local and national priorities. This year we will focus our work around the following areas and issues.

- **Health inequalities, championing the voices of those who often go unheard:** We want to understand the health and care experiences of people living with autism, refugees and asylum seekers, and young people with mental health issues.
- **Integrated Care System (ICS) & digital inclusion:** Gloucestershire's ICS comes into power in July 2022. We will continue to support the ICS's

Working with People and Communities strategy, including through a project on digital inclusion.

- **Face-to-face feedback in the community:** As COVID restrictions have eased, we will step up our work talking to people face-to-face about their health and care experiences. This will include **Enter & View** visits to publicly funded health and care premises, such as GP surgeries and care homes, and attending community events and venues.

Find out about our work priorities and all our other projects, and if you want to know more or you want to get involved, please **get in touch**.



Events and information

Come and meet us

We will be out and about in June, telling people what we do, talking to you about your health and care experiences, and finding out about the issues that matter to you. Do come along and have a chat, this is where we'll be:



- **Wed 1 June** (2pm to 4pm): Parkinson's Event, The Belfry Hotel, Littledean, Forest of Dean
- **Thurs 16 June** (all day): Cirencester Health & Wellbeing Event, Market Place, Cirencester (part of **Cirencester Health & Wellbeing Week**)
- **Fri 17 June** (9.30am to 3pm): **The Big Health & Wellbeing Day**, Oxstalls Sports Park, Gloucester

There will be lots going on at each event, with the chance to find out more about many of the other amazing health, care, and community organisations in the county.



Get involved

Have your say: Pharmacy services in Gloucestershire

The Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board wants to hear your thoughts about pharmacy services. They are consulting on their draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for 2022-2025. The PNA is a statutory document which describes pharmacy provision in Gloucestershire, identifying gaps in services and developments that will be needed to improve services and meet future needs. The PNA is used by commissioners to make decisions about pharmacy services.

Find out about the PNA and **complete the survey by 3 July** to share your views:
[2022 PNA Consultation](#)



Healthwatch England news and information



Health and Care Bill

The Health and Care Bill has received Royal Assent, enacting the most significant health legislation in a decade. This marks an important step in the Government's health and care agenda, setting up systems and structures to reform how health and adult social care work together. Healthwatch England response: [Health and Care Bill granted Royal Assent in milestone for healthcare recovery and reform](#) (28 April)



NHS waiting lists

The latest figures from the NHS show that the number of people waiting for NHS treatment has increased by 180,000. Healthwatch England response: [Steps that can help people waiting for NHS treatment](#) (12 May)



NHS dentistry

A new Healthwatch England survey of public attitudes to NHS dentistry shows that half of adults in England find dental charges unfair amid escalating living costs. They have warned decision-makers that NHS dentistry is in desperate need of reform. [Lack of NHS dental appointments widens health inequalities](#) (9 May). If you're having trouble finding an NHS dentist, read these tips on what to do: [How can you find an NHS dentist?](#)

Share our news

If you know someone who would like to keep up to date with our news or get involved with our work, please share this bulletin and [sign-up link](#)

Share your feedback

[Get in touch](#) to share your feedback and help make health and social care better for you and your community.

[Speak up and help make health and social care better for you and your community](#)



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