healthwatch
Gloucestershire

Public event: #SpeakUpGlos
25 March 2020

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is holding a public event on Wednesday 25 March, at Gloucester University, Oxstalls Campus.

We will be raising awareness of the work we do and how it makes a difference to local people, and we will announce our priorities and work programme for the year ahead. We will be encouraging people to speak up about their experiences of health and social care services in Gloucestershire and highlighting ways they can share their views and get involved with our work.

A wide range of voluntary organisations and community groups will join us at the event, to talk about the work they do to support local people with their health and social care needs.

Full details coming soon, but for now, **save and share the date!**

New report:
Experience of mental health services in Gloucestershire – a carer's perspective

Our new study, published this month, finds that unpaid carers of people with mental health conditions are not getting enough support from health and community services in Gloucestershire.

Four main areas for improvement are highlighted in the report:

- More professional, specialist support for carers, delivered through carers support groups, with clear and consistent signposting to accurate information.

- Easier access to information and advice for carers (noticeboards at GP surgeries and pharmacies were suggested by carers).

- Greater understanding and communication between carers and mental health care professionals, in the NHS and voluntary and community sector services, about what information can be shared with the carer about the person they are caring for.

- Clarification about how the `carers' assessment` is used and what impact this has on support needs.

Read more...

New research: Accessing A&E care in Gloucestershire for support with your mental health

If you have a mental health condition and you have sought urgent A&E care in Gloucestershire in the past year, we want to hear about your experiences.

Issues around mental health support, particularly crisis care, feature in a great deal of the feedback we receive from local people. This new research will find out more about how and why people with mental health conditions use A&E and what their experience is like. We will share our findings with those who commission (pay for) and provide care in the county, to highlight what works well and what could be improved.

Who do we want to speak to?

- People with a mental health condition or issue, who have used A&E in the last year at Gloucestershire Royal or Cheltenham General Hospitals.

- People who care for someone with mental health issues and who have used A&E at these hospitals.

- Staff and volunteers from voluntary and community organisations in Gloucestershire who work with people who have mental health issues.

Find out more and get involved

You can take part in a 1-1 telephone interview with one of our Engagement Officers or, if you run a group or meeting, we can arrange to come along and speak to you there. There will also be a survey available. Find out more...

Job vacancy: Youth Engagement Officer

(12 month fixed-term contract or secondment opportunity)

We are looking for a dynamic, experienced Youth Engagement Officer, to lead an exciting new 'Young Listeners' project.

We want to ensure that children and young people from Gloucestershire are listened to and heard by the people who commission, plan and run health and social care services in the county. You will lead the project, and recruit and support a team of young listeners, who will engage with other children and young people in the county, offering a peer-to-peer approach.

If you are passionate about empowering young people to have their voices heard, and you enjoy working as part of a small, dynamic team who share a can-do attitude, this could be a great opportunity for you.

More information and full job details are on our website; the deadline for applications is 23 February (midnight).

Volunteer with us

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is looking for new volunteers to go out into communities across the county, to raise awareness of our work and to listen to what people have to say about local health and social care services.

Whatever your background or experience, whether you are 18 or 80, your time and your talent could make a real difference in your local community. We are particularly keen to hear from people who live in or near the Forest of Dean and Cotswold to help with our work in those areas.

Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, we'd love to welcome you into our team. To find out more, contact our Volunteer Officer, George Soars, on 01452 504989, or visit our website.

Tell us about your health and social care experiences

Your views and experiences of health and care services are important because they can help services to become more effective or highlight where things are done well. You can share your views with us by talking to us when we are out and about in your community, or by contacting us in the following ways:

- Phone: 01452 504989
- Email: info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk
- Website: healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk
- Social media: click on the icons at the bottom of this bulletin

Healthwatch Gloucestershire 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.