

## New report: Tackling loneliness and social isolation in Gloucestershire



Our new report presents the research and insight that we have gathered about loneliness and social isolation, including local people's experiences, and highlights a range of ideas for how to help support those who feel lonely and isolated in Gloucestershire. We have shared our findings with local health and care providers so that they can learn from local people about what it feels like to be lonely and isolated, how this affects people's physical and mental health, and what support people would like but may not be feel comfortable asking for.

[Watch our video](#) to see what people told us about their loneliness and isolation.

[Read the full report: \*Let's talk about social isolation and loneliness in Gloucestershire\*](#) or

[Read the summary report](#)



## Young Listeners project: Students feedback about health and care services



Our Youth Engagement Officer, Jess, attended Gloucestershire University and Hartpury College Freshers Fayres this month, to raise awareness of our Young Listeners project. She had a great response, with nearly 100 students sharing their experiences and feedback about health and social care services and what they believe young people need from them. This will help our Young Listeners to decide on the areas they want to investigate in coming months. The topic most raised by the students was better access to mental health support.

If you work with young people, we would love to talk to you about how we can work together to give them the opportunity to share their feedback and help improve the health and care services they use. [Find out more](#) about the Young Listeners project and how to get in touch.

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## Has your treatment been cancelled or delayed?



The latest data shows that the number of people waiting for routine operations and procedures in England is at its highest level since 2007 – currently at 5.45 million. And new research by The King's Fund shows that people living in the poorest areas are waiting longer for hospital treatment.

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The impact of delayed treatment can be huge, potentially leaving people in pain and affecting their physical and mental health, and their daily life. So, The King's Fund and Healthwatch England are jointly calling for urgent action to address hospital waiting lists and improve patients' experience of delays to treatment. [Read more](#).

Healthwatch England wants to hear about your experience of waiting for care and what support and information you're getting to help you look after your health while you wait. [Share your views](#). If you would prefer to get in touch with Healthwatch Gloucestershire, phone Freephone 0800 652 5193 or email [info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk).

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## New artwork in A&E



The new artwork in place with (left to right): Anoushka (Arts Coordinator), Christina Sadler (artist), Jo (expert by experience), Pippa (expert by experience), Faye (A&E Consultant lead for mental health)

This week we visited Gloucestershire Royal Hospital's Emergency Department for the unveiling of a new piece of art that was created by a local artist in collaboration with experts by experience. The artwork was instigated by the Hospital Trust's Mental Health Working Group. They keep us informed about their work following the publication of our [report](#) last year on the improvements people would like to see in emergency mental health care.

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## Accessible information survey – British Sign Language

SignHealth has launched a survey to find out if the 'Accessible Information Standard' is benefiting people whose preferred language is British Sign Language (BSL). They want to hear from patients and health professionals, so please share your feedback and share the survey:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6FJWD7E](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6FJWD7E).



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## Know Dementia, Know Alzheimer's

September was World Alzheimer's Month, and the theme this year was about the power of knowledge. By learning more about dementia and understanding the changes in memory and behaviour, people are more likely to seek the help and support they need. Being diagnosed with dementia can be a big shock, and it can be hard to know what to do next. Find out more about what should happen when you're diagnosed with dementia and the support you should receive. [Read more.](#)



Find out more about local dementia care and support from [Gloucestershire's NHS Clinical Commissioning Group](#). Find out about [Gloucestershire's Living Well Programme](#), an online information and support programme for people with early stage dementia and those who support them, provided by Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust.

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## Moving to university? Register with a GP

If you have a son, daughter or family member who is moving away from home to university, make sure you remind them to register with a local GP. They can find out more about how to do this here: [Registering with your GP, understanding your rights.](#)





## Share your feedback

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



## Share our news

If you know someone who would be interested in keeping up to date with our news or getting involved with our work, please share this bulletin and the [sign-up link](#).

Speak up and help make health and social care better for you and your community

**Healthwatch Gloucestershire** is the county's health and social care champion. We are an independent statutory body with the power to make sure NHS leaders and other health and social care decision makers listen to public feedback and use this to improve standards of care. Healthwatch Gloucestershire covers the geographical area of Gloucestershire County Council, which includes the districts and boroughs of Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud, and Tewkesbury.



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