

## Have your say: Help put people at the heart of ICS decision making



Gloucestershire's new Integrated Care System (ICS) is due to be officially formed in July. Within the ICS arrangements, a *Working with People and Communities Strategy* is being designed. The aim is to make sure the views and lived experiences of people have an impact on decisions and services in the ICS. This is a great opportunity to enhance the voices of people and embed them into the heart of decision making.

The ICS has consulted our Board Members, volunteers and staff to help develop their strategy, and you can also share your views. Find out more and have your say: [getinvolved.glos.nhs.uk/ics-gloucestershire](https://getinvolved.glos.nhs.uk/ics-gloucestershire).

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## Consultation: Care home closures in Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire County Council is currently consulting on the proposed decommissioning and closure of four Adult Social Care homes within the Gloucestershire Care Partnership. In recent years, the Council has been focusing on supporting people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, and, as a result, they report a drop in demand for care home places.



The consultation, which closes on 20 May, includes meetings at the four homes, with residents, relatives, and staff, and there is a short online survey. [Find out more and share your feedback.](#)

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## Consultation: dental health - fluoride in water



New legislation gives the Secretary of State the power over fluoride in our water supply. There will be a second set of legislation later in the year that requires the Secretary of State to formally consult with the public on the future of water fluoridation. Before any of that happens, there is an initial consultation about this and we would encourage you to have your say.

Fluoride in the water tends to divide opinion, so it is important that the government hears from as many people as possible. Read the latest [Water Fluoridation Monitoring Report](#). Find out about the [consultation and a how to take part](#).

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## We're planning to make a difference

This month we have been finalising our work plan for the coming year. We have been deciding on the key priority areas that we will focus on and thinking about the ways we will connect and engage with people and communities across Gloucestershire, so that everyone can be included in the conversation.



We will announce our priorities in more detail next month, but they will be centred around people rather than specific health and care services, with a focus on health inequalities and mental health. Read more about how we decide on our annual work programme to make sure we help drive positive change in health and social care, locally and nationally: [Our Work - Healthwatch Gloucestershire](#).

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## Help us connect with our communities



Now that COVID restrictions have eased significantly, we are gearing up to get out and about in the community. We are looking for more volunteers to join us at events and community settings, to talk to the public about the issues that matter to them, and to find out how they think health and care services could improve.

If you are good at engaging with people and are interested in helping us gather people's views and experiences, we'd love to talk to you about our [volunteer opportunities](#). You can contact us by phone: 0800 652 5193 (Freephone) | 01452 504989 or email [volunteering@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk).

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## Healthwatch anniversary: the change you've helped to create

Healthwatch celebrated its ninth anniversary in April, so we want to say thank you to everyone who has shared their views during this time. Without you we couldn't have achieved so much change, locally or nationally. Find out about the difference you have helped to create:

[The difference we're making together | Healthwatch](#)



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## Healthwatch England news and information

The Healthwatch England team keep us up to date with health and care policy and plans, alongside their work with the network to champion the views of local people to improve health and care. Here are some of their recent research and articles which you may find interesting:



- [What medical support are you entitled to if you're new to the UK?](#)
  - [Our advice to Government on the NHS objectives for 2022-23](#)
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- [The Ockenden review - our response](#)
- [Record NHS waiting times - behind every number is someone's story](#)

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## Evolving Communities extends local Healthwatch services

We're delighted to announce that Evolving Communities, the community interest company that runs Healthwatch in Gloucestershire, Somerset and Dorset has won the contract to deliver Healthwatch Wolverhampton. We are all very proud of the work we do, in our own areas and as part of the Evolving Communities team, and we're looking forward to sharing knowledge and ideas with our new colleagues. [Read more.](#)



# Evolving Communities



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### Share your feedback

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



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### Share our news

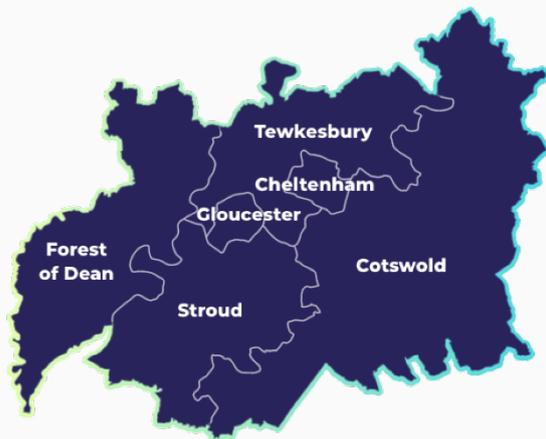
If you know someone who would be interested in keeping up to date with our news or getting involved with our work, please share this bulletin and the [sign-up link](#).

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# 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 listen to your experiences of using local health and care services and hear about the issues that really matter to you. We are independent and impartial, and your feedback is confidential. We can also help you find reliable and trustworthy information and advice to help you to get the care and support you need. As statutory body, we have with the power to make sure that NHS leaders and other decision makers listen to your feedback and use it 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.



The **Healthwatch Gloucestershire** 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 2 Hampton Park West, Melksham, SN12 6LH.



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