

April e-bulletin

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It's our birthday!

Healthwatch Gloucestershire celebrates six years as the county's independent health and social care champion

Healthwatch Manager Julia Butler-Hunt said, "We're here to make sure that those running services, and the government, put people at the heart of care. We find out what people want and champion for services that meet the local community's needs.

"These views are then shared with the decision-making organisations in the county, so together we can make a real difference."

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is currently encouraging people to share their views on how an extra £20 billion per year from the Government should be spent on local NHS services as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

You can participate in the *What Would You Do?* campaign via an online survey: <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/what-would-you-do>, and by speaking directly to Healthwatch.

[Read more...](#)

We've moved

From 8 April, Healthwatch Gloucestershire has moved to:
13c Wheatstone Court
Waterwells Business Park
Quedgeley
GLOUCESTER
GL2 2AQ.



Gloucestershire has the highest number of children with learning disabilities in the South West

Thousands of children have learning disabilities and autism in Gloucestershire and now families are being asked to help shape local NHS services supporting them.

Over 600 schoolchildren have autism and more than 4700 children are recorded as living with moderate to severe learning disabilities in Gloucestershire – the highest number in the South West region, according to NHS figures.

And now local families are being sought to share their views on the NHS services supporting those with learning disabilities and autism in Gloucestershire.

[Read more...](#)

Thank you

Healthwatch Gloucestershire Manager Julia Butler-Hunt and the Healthwatch team spent 23-28 March in Milo the campervan touring the county.



"We'd like to say a big thank you to all our volunteers who came out with us, and everyone we spoke to during the Campervan and Comments Tour, as well

as the organisations who hosted us. It was great to visit lots of different areas of the county," Julia said.

It was a fantastic week with great weather. We gave away over 500 goody bags and information, gained four new volunteers.

We also gathered approximately 60 pieces of feedback a day and spoke to about 150 people about the Healthwatch England NHS Long Term Plan project.

You can still participate in the *What Would You Do?* campaign via an online survey: <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/what-would-you-do>, or by speaking directly to us Healthwatch Gloucestershire.

Please encourage as many people as you can to take part - we want people's voices heard.

Meet Bob Lloyd-Smith

Bob is the new chair of the Healthwatch Gloucestershire Steering Group. In our latest edition of Highlight we find out more about his role.



What do you do as a Steering Group member?

I do a great deal of listening to colleagues who have a tremendous wealth of knowledge about what's going on. Sometimes it's first-hand experience of local health or social care or maybe they are reporting back on significant Gloucestershire health service decision-making boards or committees. The Steering Group is good at spotting trends in public perception, which enables us to ask challenging questions of the providers.

Read more about what Bob finds the most rewarding aspect of the job and the sorts of people he meets on page 14 of [Highlight Spring Edition 2019](#).

Our dedicated Steering Group members help to plan our priorities for our work to ensure we find out the views of local people on health and social care services.



What you have been saying this month

Patients have been telling Healthwatch Gloucestershire what's good and what's not so good about local health and social care services this month.

“I used oncology services recently in Cheltenham, the kindness of the staff was incredible, and reassured both me and my friend constantly.”

“I would like to see better co-operation between health and social care better communication between all services, especially GPs and hospitals.”

“My GP surgery is great, I have no struggles getting an appointment, and the staff are all kind. I wish they wouldn't insist on telephone appointments though, sometimes I need to see someone to get the best service.”

Have your say by calling Healthwatch Gloucestershire on 01452 504989 or emailing info@healthwatchgloucestersire.co.uk. All feedback is collated anonymously and the most common themes are presented to the decision-making organisations in the county, so that your voice is heard.

Out and about in April

Share your experiences of health and social care services with our volunteers and staff this month at:



Nailsworth

10 April 11-1pm - Nailsworth Library

Gloucester

11 April 10-3pm - Glos Parkinson's Conference, Gloucester Rugby Club

23 April 10-12pm - Chapel Care Centre Information Week

[Find out more...](#)

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.



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 4 Hampton Park West, Melksham, SN12 6LH.



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