



Drive launched to recruit more volunteers

A new campaign has been launched to recruit volunteers to help shape local health and care services in Gloucestershire.

The county's independent health and care champion - Healthwatch Gloucestershire - is looking for people from all backgrounds to join its voluntary programme to help make a real difference to the way health services are run locally.

Retired headteacher and current volunteer Brian Henry from Highnam near Gloucester (pictured above) has been a volunteer with Healthwatch Gloucestershire for the last three years and is encouraging others to join him in his role.

75-year-old Brian said: "Volunteering is a great way to keep active, keep your mind focused and helps you feel good about yourself as you are helping others."

[Read more.](#)



Welcome to Suzie

Healthwatch Gloucestershire's new Engagement Officer Suzie Compton (pictured) is looking forward to meeting local people to listen to their views on health and care services in the county.

Suzie has previously worked at Longfield Hospice in Minchinhampton as a Volunteer Manager and before that she was a HR Adviser for the BBC in Bristol for 17 years.

Suzie said: "I applied for this role because I was looking for a new challenge, but still wanted to work with volunteers and engage with the public. I'm looking forward to meeting local people to gather their views to help shape health and care in Gloucestershire."

[Find out more](#) about the Healthwatch Gloucestershire team.

'Meet and greets' in Gloucestershire

Staff and volunteers are hoping to meet members of the public to listen to their experiences of health and care services in the county next month.



On Wednesday 17 January (10.30-11.30am) the team will be at the Riverside Care & Support Retirement Village, Springfield House, Pilgrove Way, Cheltenham, L51 OWA.

Julia Butler-Hunt, Healthwatch Gloucestershire Manager, explained: "We are currently organising some meet and greets and we are keen to hear from local people on a wide range of local services such as hospitals, dentists, GP surgeries, care homes, ambulance services and much more.

"We are independent from the NHS, local authority and any other health and social care service - so people can talk to us freely about their experiences. When we spot a pattern of issues or concerns we present these views to the decision-making organisations so together we can make a real difference.

"We're also keen to hear from members of the public who we might not normally meet at our engagement events to listen to their ideas on how we can better get to know the community and hear people's stories on health and care services."

If you know any local groups which Healthwatch could visit, please call the team on 01452 504989. For more details visit the [events diary](#).

Christmas opening hours

The Healthwatch Gloucestershire office will be closed from Monday 25 to Wednesday 27 December and also on Monday 1 January.



Feedback can still be left by emailing info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is the county's independent health and 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 5 Hampton Park West, Melksham, SN12 6LH.

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