

February 2019 e-bulletin

[View this email in your browser](#)

healthwatch
Gloucestershire



Roadshow aims to put Gloucestershire people in the driving seat on health and social care issues

Staff and volunteers from the county's independent health and care champion will be taking to the roads of Gloucestershire in March to find out what people think about their local health and care services.

Healthwatch Gloucestershire aims to speak to at least 500 people from all corners of the county as part of its 'Campervan and Comments Tour.'

The roadshow will travel almost 260 miles zig-zagging around Gloucestershire in a classic 1969 VW campervan and park up at key locations around the county to gather the views of people of all ages.

[Find out more...](#)



There's still time to share your experiences of mental health services

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is conducting a three-month engagement campaign to gather more feedback which will help shape future provision of mental health services in the county.

Staff and volunteers have been talking to people in the community and there is also an online survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/mentalhealthgloucs/>

Hard copies are available on request. The survey closes on 16 March 2019. For more details contact the team at Healthwatch Gloucestershire on 01452 504989 or freephone 0800 6525193; email info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk or visit www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk



"Volunteering has improved my mental health"

A man from Stroud who has been unable to work due to mental health problems is encouraging others to consider volunteering to help boost their self-esteem.

41-year-old Ben Keyte has suffered with mental health issues for the last 20 years, resulting in him being unable to run his catering and gardening business.

He joined Healthwatch Gloucestershire last year as a volunteer, helping out in the office – assisting with database entries, social media updates and short film-making. And now he believes his volunteering role will help secure a job.

[Read more...](#)



Gloucestershire NHS hospitals receive 'good' rating in recent CQC inspection

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has rated Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNHSFT) as 'good' overall, following a comprehensive inspection of services last autumn.

The inspection shows that 90.5% of services are now rated 'good' or 'outstanding' compared to 72.5% at the last inspection, reflecting the continuing positive trend of improvements in care. No service was rated as inadequate.

Alan Thomas, Chair of the Healthwatch Gloucestershire Steering Group said, "Healthwatch Gloucestershire was delighted to hear about the CQCs recent endorsement of the quality of care at Gloucestershire Hospitals Trust. A 'Good' rating is no small success, especially in the trying financial circumstances that the Trust has found itself in. The achievement is a testament both to the quality of the Trust Leadership and, of course, to the many thousands of Trust staff who endeavour to give their best care to everyone."

[Read more...](#)

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.

"There are very long waits at the Glaucoma Clinic despite there being lots of staff around and it seems pointless being given an appointment time, when I end up waiting around for a couple more hours to be seen."

"I had five falls in four months but no one really looked into why I kept falling. Eventually the doctor realised I had low blood pressure and I am now on medication for this and have not had anymore falls."

"I have recently had some blood tests at my surgery, but I had to wait three weeks for the appointment which seems a long time to me."

"Due to my health condition, I am able to see the same GP in my surgery every time I ring up and I find this brilliant as I don't have to keep repeating myself."

"I am seriously ill with cancer and have to go to the Oncology Unit every week where the staff and service have been fantastic."

"I regularly see a Neurologist at both GRH and Cheltenham and he is absolutely brilliant and explains what is happening to me in ways I can understand."

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

CEO vacancy at Evolving Communities

Do you want to put people at the heart of health and social care delivery?

Evolving Communities is looking for a Chief Executive Officer to lead its small head office and external teams, and move the organisation into the next phase of growth.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record in strong leadership, financial awareness, strategic and lateral thinking, planning, problem solving and highly developed communication skills.

[More details...](#)



Project associates and consultants sought

Are you an experienced engagement and/or research specialist with an interest in making a difference in the health, social care and community sector? Then Evolving Communities would like to hear from you.

Evolving Communities are looking for Research and Engagement Associates to work on ad-hoc projects. You will need to demonstrate an excellent flair for research, public engagement, have good attention to detail, excellent interpersonal and project management skills.

The small and friendly research team are based in Melksham Wiltshire, but work on projects across the South West and nationally. If you like the flexibility of working on short term projects, either from home or office-based, then this is the ideal opportunity for you. [Apply here...](#)

Out and about in February

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

Tewkesbury Borough Council

12 February – Presentation on Healthwatch

Stroud

13 February – The Door Project (Evening)

14 February – Know Your Patch Workshop

Moreton in Marsh

14 February – P3 – Building Stronger Communities, Drop In Session

Gloucester

14 February – Know Your Patch Workshop

28 February – Visually Impaired Group, General Community Engagement

Cheltenham

23 February – LGBT Event to celebrate LGBT History Month

Dursley

26 February – Stroud College Students @ GL11

27 February – Stroud College Students @ GL11

[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.



Copyright © 2019 Healthwatch Gloucestershire. All rights reserved.

01452 504989

Kestrel Court, Waterwells Business Park, Quedgeley, GLOUCESTER GL2 2AT