



New CEO announced

The community interest company which runs the Healthwatch Gloucestershire service has announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer - Mary Curran.

Evolving Communities CIC has hired Mary (pictured) to replace Emma Cooper, who revealed in October she would be leaving to take up a post with a national charity.

Mary, who will start in April, brings extensive skills and experience gained from working in a range of roles across local government as well as the charity sector.

She said: "Healthwatch is so important in making sure that local people's voices are heard. It's up to us to champion people's views on the quality of services they experience and what they want to see change in their area."

"I'm looking forward to building on the excellent foundations laid, and sharing good practice across Gloucestershire. I am delighted to have been appointed and am really looking forward to getting started." [Read more...](#)



Farewell to Emma

Staff and volunteers got together this week to thank CEO Emma Cooper for all her work during the last four years leading Evolving Communities.

Emma left on Friday (19 January) to take up an area manager role with national charity Parkinson's UK. Emma said: "One of the highlights of my job as CEO has been working with colleagues to put in place a really good quality volunteer programme which sees local people from all walks of life get involved in the important work of Healthwatch.

"I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to play a part in the national and local development of Healthwatch and I would like to thank everyone at Evolving Communities and others I've worked with over the years for all their support and encouragement.

"I'd also like to welcome Mary Curran to the role and hope she enjoys her time with Evolving Communities as much as I have."

Help shape local health and care

A former journalist who volunteers for Gloucestershire's health and social care champion is urging others to join him as part of a recruitment drive.

Bob Lloyd-Smith, from Cheltenham, worked in newspapers, radio and television before studying to become a work performance coach. He has worked with NHS England as a public/patient leader in Gloucestershire and is also working with the 2gether NHS Foundation Trust as a Mental Health Act Manager.



60-year-old Bob, who is also a governor at a Cheltenham primary school, said: "I see first-hand much of the remarkable care provided by the health professionals and their support staff but also get to hear directly from service users about the care they receive.

"To me, Healthwatch Gloucestershire offers a really user friendly and safe way of allowing those in need of health and social care in the county to say what they think of the service they receive."

To find out more about volunteering with Healthwatch Gloucestershire call Kay on 01452 504989 or email info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk or visit www.healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk/volunteering
[Read more...](#)



Meet Laura

Mum of two Laura Fraser (pictured) has joined Healthwatch Gloucestershire as Team Administrator, providing general administration and support to the busy Quedgeley-based office.

Laura, who lives in Gloucester, said: "My work background has always been in an office environment until 7 years ago. I'm now just coming back into work after having my children and looking forward to the fresh challenges that await me." [Meet the team](#)



Meet us and share your views

Staff and volunteers will be out and about over the next month to meet local people and listen to their experiences of health and care services in Gloucestershire.

Events include:

- A Meet and Greet session at Charlton Kings Library, Cheltenham, on Tuesday, 6 Feb, 10.30am-12.30 noon.
 - A Meet and Greet session at Moreton-in-Marsh Library on Monday 12 February, 10am-12 noon.
 - And a Meet and Greet session at Chipping Campden Library on Monday 12 February, 1-3pm.
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Get in touch with Kay Bunyan for more details - info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk or call 01452 504989 or visit the online [calendar](#) for an up to date diary of events.

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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