



Healthwatch network reveals priorities for 2019

To mark the start of 2019, Healthwatch England has published its annual network priorities list – setting out the key health and care topics local teams like Healthwatch Gloucestershire will be working on over the year ahead.

Over the last year Healthwatch engaged with over 400,000 people about their experiences of care. Drawing on the wealth of qualitative data they collect, and through additional activities such as high-street surveys and townhall events, each local Healthwatch works with their community to set out a number of priorities for their area.

The top five nation-wide priorities for 2019 are:

- Primary care (including access to GPs)
- Children and young people
- Mental health
- Services working better together
- Adult social care, including residential care homes or care at home

[Read more...](#)



Join the volunteer team and make a difference!

Do you have a few hours to spare each week to help shape local health and social care services? Then why not join Healthwatch Gloucestershire's dedicated team of volunteers.

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is looking for more people to go out into the communities in the county and listen to what people have to say on local health and social care services.

Kay Bunyan, Volunteer Officer at Healthwatch Gloucestershire, said: "We have a busy few months coming up, where we need extra help to reach as many local people as we can to gather views on projects we are working on. Volunteers can give as little or as much time as they want - but can make a real difference to help change things for the better." [Find out more...](#)

Share your views on Gloucestershire mental health services

Have you experienced local mental health services in the county? Then Healthwatch Gloucestershire would like to hear from you.



Over 25% of all feedback given to Healthwatch Gloucestershire is about accessing or using mental health services. A three-month engagement campaign is now in full swing aimed at gathering feedback to help improve support for patients.

All Gloucestershire residents can take part but Healthwatch Gloucestershire are keen to hear from people who currently use or have used mental health services in the last two years; relatives or unpaid carers of those using, or have used mental health services or support. [Have your say](#) or [find out more.](#)



Ambulance service governor elections this month

The area's ambulance service - the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust - is holding its Governor Elections in Gloucester this month. If you are interested in becoming a Public Governor - email governors@swast.nhs.uk or call 01392 261502.

Changes to x-ray services - what's your experience?

Patients affected by recent changes to X-ray services in Gloucestershire are being asked to share their experiences with Healthwatch Gloucestershire.



X-ray services in Gloucestershire have been revised in response to a national shortage of radiographers and radiologists. Three radiographers from community hospitals have been reallocated to ensure life-saving interventional radiology services such as keyhole surgery, can be provided round the clock, seven days a week, at Cheltenham General Hospital and Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

Share your experiences with Healthwatch Gloucestershire by emailing info@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk or calling 01452 504989.

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 have started to use the online service for requesting repeat prescriptions and I find it really easy to use," said one local resident.

Other feedback includes: "I am under a consultant at Gloucester Royal Hospital and following a few setbacks in my health lately, I have been liaising closely with his secretary, who has been fantastic. Every time I ring up, she deals with

my query straight away, or comes back to me very quickly and I cannot praise her highly enough."

Another said: "I have been referred for physiotherapy by my GP and although I have received confirmation from them I am still awaiting my first appointment and it has now been over three months."

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.

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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01452 504989

**Unit F13 Kestrel Court, Waterwells Drive, Waterwells Business
Park, Quedgeley, GLOUCESTER GL2 2AT**