healthwatch
Gloucestershire

Report into mental health services published

Local NHS services should provide realistic time frames for appointments and better communication for people wanting to access mental health services - a new Healthwatch Gloucestershire report reveals.

A recent study into local people's experiences of mental health services in the county has revealed many people are frustrated with complicated referral processes, often being passed from service to service with long waiting times and little information.

Over 430 people took part in the research on local mental health services and the findings are now published in a report 'Exploring the views of

[Gloucestershire people on mental health services in the county](#)' which will be presented to the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board. [Read more...](#)

Take part in research

A study continues until the end of this month to find out why people with mental health conditions and drug and alcohol issues are not getting enough support from health and community services in Gloucestershire.

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is carrying out the research after seeing a rise in complaints from people about the lack of support and integration between mental health and drug and alcohol services in the county.

The research project aims to find out why current statutory and community mental health support services and support services for those with drug and alcohol issues aren't working well together to support people who have co-existing problems. [Find out more...](#)

Top four reasons to volunteer

Members of Healthwatch Gloucestershire's Readers' Panel, a group which proof-reads leaflets, reports and documents on behalf of local NHS and Council services before they are published, have given their top four reasons for volunteering with us:

1. You can help patients and their families get clear and easy to understand information
2. Keep up to date with local health and social care developments
3. Give something back
4. Have a sense of purpose and develop new skills

Volunteer John Lane said: "Being a member of the Readers' Panel enables me to have a say in the way important healthcare related information is presented

in written form. It also provides valuable insight into future plans for various healthcare services." Find out more...

Be part of the Citizen's Jury

Do you want to help shape how NHS specialist hospital services will be organised in Gloucestershire? Then you may be interested in joining a new 'Citizen's Jury' which is being set up in the county.

Citizens Juries CIC, a not-for-profit company, is inviting applications from members of the public to take part in an exciting project commissioned by the NHS for Gloucestershire.

If selected, you will be part of a citizens' jury, who will meet together to answer important questions about how specialist NHS hospital services should be organised between Gloucester Royal and Cheltenham Hospitals. Apply here by Monday 28 October.

A vision for change

Do you know someone who is blind or partially-sighted and interested in making health services better for people with sight loss? Then the Gloucestershire Sight Loss Council would like to hear from you.

The Sight Loss Council is made up of blind and partially-sighted people who live in the county and have come together to reflect and represent the experiences and views of people with sight loss to decision-makers, policy-influencers and service providers. Find out more: alun.davies@pocklington-trust.org.uk

Shape health and care - join our board

Could you be part of our local Board - helping to plan out work priorities for the organisation and advising staff and volunteers on local issues?

Julia Butler-Hunt, Healthwatch Gloucestershire Manager, explained: "We welcome interest from all sections of the local community. We're looking for local people with a passionate interest in helping the local community shape the way their health and social care services are run." 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.