

## October 2017 e-bulletin

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Dear friend

Welcome to our October e-bulletin, where you will find all the latest news from Healthwatch Gloucestershire - the county's independent health and care champion.

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### New joined up approach to local care announced

Healthwatch Gloucestershire has welcomed news that the two NHS Trusts providing community-based physical and mental health services in the county are to join together under one leadership.

Together NHS Foundation Trust and Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust will jointly appoint new leaders later this year.

Alan Thomas, chair of Healthwatch Gloucestershire, said: "The integration of mental and physical health provision is, at face value, a positive development, especially in a community setting. It will, however, be essential to listen to the views of people currently using the services of both Trusts to fully understand how the system is working for them now, as we would hope that future provision will be better. We welcome the news that regular engagement is planned."

[Read more...](#)

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## Help shape local health and care services

"Volunteering with Healthwatch Gloucestershire gives me the chance to listen to, engage with and help people with difficulties or problems with their health services," says volunteer Brian (pictured left).

Retired deputy headteacher Brian from Highnam is part of a team of dedicated volunteers who listen to the views of local people on health and care services.

Healthwatch Gloucestershire welcomes people from different backgrounds and ages to join its diverse team of volunteers across the county. Roles include listening to people about their experiences of local health and social care services, compiling feedback from the public and visiting health and care services to speak to the people who are using them.

[Find out more...](#)

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## Polish Healthfest this month

A free health and wellbeing event has been organised for the Polish community in Gloucestershire this month (Saturday, October 7.)

Polish Healthfest, organised by Healthwatch Gloucestershire and the NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, will give local Polish people the chance to find out more about health and wellbeing services available to them.



To be held at Kingsway Community Centre, Thatcham Avenue, Quedgeley, from 1-4pm, the event will also feature workshops on topics such as men's health, maternity, children's healthcare and mental health and wellbeing.

Julia Butler, Healthwatch Gloucestershire Manager, said: "We have organised this event in partnership with the NHS, with local Polish people in mind. We want to get to know the community and listen to the experiences they have had with local health and care services."

[More details...](#)

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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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