



Why are people with drug or alcohol problems not getting the support they need for their mental health?

A study has been launched 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.

One patient told Healthwatch Gloucestershire: “I use both mental health and alcohol addiction services. I find it hard to access both services; each says I am the other person’s problem, and I can’t get help from one until my other illness is sorted.” Take part in a [short survey](#) (closing date Monday 30 September). [Read more...](#)

Help new parents with their mental health say Healthwatch

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is calling on local services to make more space for new parents in the county to talk about their mental health.



A new report exploring the experiences of women and their partners with mental health problems during the journey to parenthood has found that many people are not experiencing the consistent support they should expect if services were following NHS guidelines.

Published by Healthwatch England, the report - 'Mental health and the journey to parenthood' - focuses on a survey of 1,738 women and draws on the research undertaken by Healthwatch Gloucestershire. [Read more...](#)

Share your experience of special care dentists



If you or someone you care for use special care dental services in Gloucestershire, then NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE and NHI) would like to hear from you.

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is collating the views of patients, potential patients, parents, carers and advocates to help shape future developments of special care dental services in the region.

Special care dental services focus on improving the oral health of people who have a health condition or have circumstances which prevents them from using a high street dentist. It is these people that the NHS would like feedback from about their awareness and experience of using these services. [Read more...](#)

How do you access urgent care in Gloucestershire?

The NHS in Gloucestershire wants to know what the public thinks about new ideas to support easier, faster and more convenient ways to get urgent same day advice and care in the county.



Under the title, Fit for the Future, the NHS will be holding workshops and visiting local communities to find out what local people think about accessing urgent (not life threatening) same day advice and care across Gloucestershire.

To have your say, go to an information bus drop-in event, visit a public workshop or a public event. [Find out more..](#)



Help Healthwatch Gloucestershire set future priorities in the county

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....](#)



Meet us this month and share your health and care experiences

Have you had a good or not so good experience recently of a local health or social care service? Then we want to know! Meet us at the following places:

- **The University of Gloucestershire Freshers Fayre**, Cheltenham, Wednesday 18 September, all day
 - **Hartpury Wellfest**, Hartpury, Thursday 19 September, all day
 - Talk to **Stanway Women's Group**, Stanway, Wednesday 25 September, 11am-12noon.
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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.



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