

September 2018 e-bulletin

[View this email in your browser](#)

healthwatch
Gloucestershire



Volunteering opens doors for Kay

Meet Kay (pictured) who found her ideal job - thanks in part to volunteering with the county's independent health and care champion Healthwatch Gloucestershire.

The 29-year-old from Podsmead, Gloucester, finished a degree in Public Health in 2014 and had been job-hunting for a career in this field. She applied for various roles but had no luck until she spotted a volunteer role with Healthwatch Gloucestershire.

"Volunteering is the best thing that could ever happened to me. I'm glad I went on the job search engine that day in my life and came across Healthwatch. Thanks to the volunteering I got a job as a community researcher."

[Read more...](#)



Help make end of life care better

Patients and their relatives living with a terminal illness are being asked to help build a picture of their experience of the care and support provided to them in Gloucestershire.

As part of the End of Life Care Strategy, Healthwatch Gloucestershire is looking at what end of life support is available for individuals over 18 years old both locally and nationally.

This support is non-clinical; not information about your illness or condition, but other types of information that would support you and your family through the end of life. [Take part in the survey...](#)

Join our passionate team

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person to join our small but dynamic team to support the general running of the Healthwatch Gloucestershire office.



The successful candidate will provide vital admin support such as preparing documents, organising meetings, answering the phone and email enquiries, dealing with mail-outs and inputting data. Closing date: 5 September 2018.

[More details...](#)

Your feedback this month

Here's some of the comments we have had this month about local health and care services:

"My GP Surgery is absolutely brilliant and I am always able to ring up and see someone the same day."



"I see the Podiatrist in Tewkesbury, which is really useful, but I have to ring Cheltenham to book the appointment and sometimes it can take weeks to get through, but once the appointment is made, the service is great."

"My surgery has recently merged with another one and it is a complete nightmare to try and ring to get an appointment as they are permanently engaged. Also, their repeat prescription service has completely broken down and I have to physically go in every time to get this sorted out."

"I have been trying to get an appointment for my husband with a psychiatrist for three weeks now and despite leaving seven messages on their answer phone, no one has ever returned my call and I don't know what to do about it."

[Share your feedback...](#)

Steering group members wanted

People with a passion for seeing local health and social care services changed for the better are being sought by Healthwatch Gloucestershire.



Steering Group members will oversee and contribute to the work programme and play a crucial role in monitoring its delivery.

"I want to improve access to good quality health and social care services in Gloucestershire," says current Steering Group member Eileen Morrison.

[Apply here...](#)

Share your views with us this month

Staff and volunteers will be out and about in Gloucestershire this month to listen to the health and care experiences of local people.



Join us at:

- Parkinson's Support Group, Tewksbury, on Wednesday 5 September, 11am-12noon.
-

- University of Gloucester Freshers Fayre, Cheltenham, on Wednesday 12 September, 11am-4pm.
- Wellfest, Hartpury College, Gloucester, on Thursday 13 September, 10am-4pm.
- Glos Constabulary Open Day, Gloucester, on Saturday, 15 September, 10am-5pm.
- Death Café, Newnham on Severn, on Wednesday 26 September, 6.30pm.
- World Café, Gloucester, on Wednesday 26 September, 5-8pm.

[More events...](#)

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 social 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.



01452 504989

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

Copyright © 2018 Healthwatch Gloucestershire. All rights reserved.