

HEALTHWATCH HIGHLIGHTS

Your news from **healthwatch** Oxfordshire

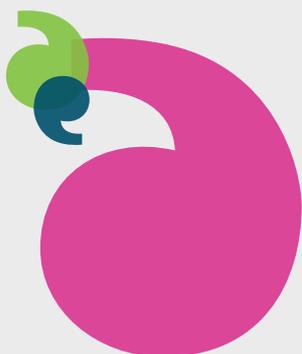


Healthwatch Volunteers

We need you! Find out more, on page 4.

Our GP Survey

You may not have heard but we got an amazing response to our GP Survey. Thank you to the 834 people who completed the questionnaire. Now we are in the process of analysing the information you gave us with the report being made available in the autumn.



Join the Care.data debate

Healthwatch Oxfordshire are holding a debate on the care.data program with the University of Oxford, Health Experiences Institute. Chaired by Dame Fiona Caldicott, the debate will explore the NHS program and will be the chance for people to have their say. See page 2 for how to book.

What is Care.data?

Care.data is a program which would allow the NHS, approved researchers and other organisations to use confidential information from patient medical records in order to improve their services. Similar information is already shared from hospitals, and this will then be linked with care.data information from GPs. The NHS will have more information about overall care of patients, which will help in future planning of services.

Despite the potential benefits, major concerns have been raised by the public and organisations over the anonymity of the data collected. Following criticism of the Care.data proposals from professional bodies such as the British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners and Healthwatch,

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Healthwatch Happenings



We are always out and about at events and meetings around the county, so if you bump into us don't forget to say hello.

- 10th Sept. "Care.data debate", Lecture Theatre 2, Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, at 5.30pm.
- 1st Oct. Better Together- a forum that will discuss how Healthwatch Oxfordshire can work with the voluntary sector (see below).

There is always more going on, and you can always stay up-to-date with events by logging on to our website.

CQC Inspections



The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be inspecting GP surgeries in Oxfordshire over the next 16 months. As part of the inspection Healthwatch Oxfordshire is teaming up with the CQC to gather your comments about GP services. We would love for you to get in touch and let us know what has worked well, what has gone wrong or what you think could be improved. You can find details on how to contact us on page 3.

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the uploading of data from GP practices was delayed by six months to the autumn, while NHS England seeks further views from the public.

We and the University of Oxford Health Experiences Institute are co-hosting a debate panel followed by a Q&A session, offering people in Oxfordshire the opportunity to explore and discuss issues associated with this proposed new electronic system of patient data sharing. The information we gather will go to NHS England.

If you would like to attend the event please log on to our website or get in touch on 01865 520520. The debate is on Wednesday 10th September 2014 at Lecture Theatre 2, Mathematical Institute, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, University of Oxford, OX2 6GG at 5.30pm.



Working Better Together

Are you a voluntary organisation large or small? Join Healthwatch Oxfordshire at the Kings Centre for a free morning forum that will introduce Healthwatch Oxfordshire and their work with the voluntary sector. Explore how Healthwatch Oxfordshire can work with the voluntary sector and help us to look at the patient experience of GP services- a service being inspected by the Care Quality Commission. We will also look at the local issues that you think matter in health and social care and these will go on to influence and Healthwatch Oxfordshire and its future priorities. Please book online on the events page of our website or call us in the office on 01865 520520.



Grants and Funding



Healthwatch Oxfordshire is looking for up to 10 proposals from around the County from community groups interested in being sponsored with up to £500 to run a local health and social care related event.

This could be an information fair, fun-day or other awareness raising event. We are looking to sponsor events spread across the whole of Oxfordshire. The aim is to raise awareness of Healthwatch Oxfordshire as an independent champion for all people in Oxfordshire and to find out what people in your community think about services.

If you have any queries about the application process or would like to apply, log on to our website or get in touch.

Contact Us

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Healthwatch Oxfordshire welcomes a new Chief Executive.

Rachel Coney has been named as the new Chief Executive of Healthwatch Oxfordshire.



Rachel joins Healthwatch Oxfordshire after nine years spent working within the NHS, most recently for the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG), and has extensive experience of working in the voluntary sector as a Trustee, Board Chair, employee and management consultant.

She has also held roles within NHS England Thames Valley; Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust; and the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust.

Before working in the health sector, Rachel worked within the cultural sector for 20 years. Her responsibilities have varied from promoting social inclusion through arts and culture to managing a partnership of over 40 organisations delivering a year-long countywide festival.

“We are delighted to welcome someone of Rachel’s calibre as the new Chief Executive. Rachel’s experience within health care and the wider Oxfordshire community will be a huge asset to Healthwatch Oxfordshire and her knowledge will be invaluable in tackling the health and social care issues that people in Oxfordshire face today.”

Jean Nunn-Price MBE, Chair of
Healthwatch Oxfordshire



Healthwatch Volunteers

Do you have time to spare? Would you like to meet new people and gain new skills? Do you believe that your health and social care services should be the best that they can be? Yes? Then volunteering for Healthwatch Oxfordshire could be for you!



We are looking for:

- **Healthwatch Champions**- supporting us at events, distributing information and promoting the work Healthwatch Oxfordshire can do to help improve services.
- **Healthwatch Ambassadors**- you would be the eyes and ears of the people for Healthwatch Oxfordshire and help us find out what local people think about local services.
- **Enter and View Volunteers**- as one of our authorised representatives you would go into health and social care premises to see how people are experiencing the service.

If you would like more information or an application form, please log on to our website or contact us.



The Project Fund

We have awarded grants to two more organisations to conduct research in areas about which they are concerned.

Oxford Neurological Alliance has been awarded £3513 to identify gaps and weaknesses in patients experience of neurological services.

£4500 was awarded to the charity Restore to research best practice on service user participation in mental health services.

There is still time to apply for a grant out of the £30,000 Healthwatch Oxfordshire has committed for research projects. Please visit our website for more information and how to apply.

Previous Projects

Entering the second year of the project fund the Healthwatch Oxfordshire Board has been struck by the high quality of the reports published.

Reports from 2013-2014 are published on the Healthwatch Oxfordshire website, log on to find out more.