

July 2019 e-bulletin

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New report highlights impact over the last year

MORE than 3,500 people living in Dorset have shared their views on the way health services in the county are run.

In its new Impact Report, Healthwatch Dorset reveals:

- The staff team heard from 3695 people who shared their views.
- They visited 32 local services to understand people's experiences of health and care.
- 75 volunteers helped carry out engagement work.
- And more than 2780 people accessed health advice and support thanks to being pointed in the right direction by Healthwatch Dorset.

[Read more...](#)

Could you join our steering group?

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



Healthwatch Dorset is looking for local people to form a Steering Group, volunteers who will help the team shape their workplan. Although not essential, if you have knowledge or experience in social care, children and young people, mental health, or equalities and diversity, this would be beneficial.

Louise Bate, Healthwatch Dorset Manager, explained: "We welcome interest from all sections of the local community. We're looking for local people with a passionate interest in using the feedback Healthwatch Dorset gathers to shape the way health and social care services are run."

Former chair Joyce Guest (pictured) added: "In my former role as Chair of Healthwatch Dorset I learnt a lot about the complexities of the organisation and management of health and social care. I found the whole experience both educational and rewarding. I would recommend volunteering for Healthwatch to anyone with spare time." [Find out more...](#)



CQC publish report on oral health in care homes

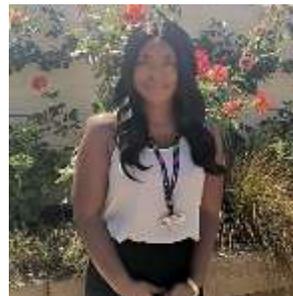
A new report published this month by the Care Quality Commission on oral health in care homes reflects what people have been telling Healthwatch Dorset, including the problems people face in accessing dentists.

Last year, Healthwatch Dorset surveyed over 300 care homes and organisations about access to dental services in local care homes. They found 38% of care home residents had no dental care at all, with the biggest barriers to treatment being no home visits and poor access at dental practices.

From this work, Healthwatch Dorset recommended in its [report](#) more home visits by dentists and greater understanding for dentists on dementia training. [Read](#) the CQC report and Healthwatch England's response.

Welcome to Anna who joins the Healthwatch team

New admin officer Anna Stillwell (pictured) says she's looking forward to helping local people have their say over health and care services through her new role with Healthwatch Dorset.



From Bournemouth, Anna has worked in administration roles for over 10 years. She said: "I have a real passion for health and social care and I'm looking forward to becoming an integral part of the Dorset team.

"I believe it's of paramount importance that service users have their voices heard, as they are the people directly affected by the services." [Meet our team...](#)



Share your views on area's dentist services

NHS England South East is looking for feedback on its special care dental services provided to adults and children in the area.

The Special Care Adult and Paediatric Dentistry services, often known as Community Dental Services, is being recommissioned and as part of this process the views of patients are being sought.

The Special Care Adult and Paediatric Dental Services include a wide range of services provided for both children and adults unable to attend general dental services, due to additional needs. The survey, open until 29 July, can be found [here](#).



Proposed changes to dementia services: have your say now

The public are being invited to have their say over proposals to invest an extra £670,000 for dementia services in Dorset.

Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group has worked with over 300 people to develop proposals for the future model of dementia care in Dorset. The consultation is taking place until Sunday 11 August, with events taking place across the county to explain the proposed changes. [More details...](#)

Where are we this month?

The team and staff from Healthwatch Dorset will be out and about in the community over the summer collecting the views of local people on health and social care services. They will be at:



- **BCHA Festival of Wellbeing**, Boscombe Chine Gardens: Friday 26 July, 1-4pm.
- **Summer Talk Moor 19**, Turlin Moor: Saturday 17 August 11am-3pm

[More information...](#)



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