

August 2019 e-bulletin

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healthwatch
Dorset



what
would you do?

It's your NHS. Have your say.

The top four things people would like improved in Dorset NHS services

Quicker and easier access to GPs; speedier diagnosis and treatment options; annual health checks and more regular support for those with long-term conditions, were the top four things people in Dorset would like to see implemented in their local NHS.

Their views were shared as part of Healthwatch Dorset's What Would You Do? campaign and the findings are revealed in a new report.

More than 300 residents, patients and their families took part in What Would You do? activities, which launched in April to encourage people in the county to share their views about how extra money from the Government should be spent on local NHS services. [Find out more...](#)

Join our Steering Group and make a difference

The search for new volunteers to join Healthwatch Dorset's Steering Group continues this month.



Louise Bate, Healthwatch Dorset Manager, said: “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.

“Although not essential, if people have knowledge or experience in social care, children and young people, mental health, equalities and diversity this would be beneficial.” [Find out more...](#)



New CEO pledges to ensure local people's voices are heard

The community interest company which runs the Healthwatch Dorset service has announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer.

Lynda Williams (pictured) takes over from Mary Curran who was Evolving Communities CEO from April 2018 to February 2019.

Lynda comes to Evolving Communities with extensive experience in developing and managing organisations. She has spent the majority of her career in the charity sector working across many service areas ranging from community action and capacity building to youth homelessness and the criminal justice system. She has also run women’s domestic abuse services and refuge accommodation. [Read more...](#)

Share your views on new plans to improve health in Dorset

Have your say on innovative plans to help improve health and wellbeing in Dorset. The local NHS and Councils are working together and now want to hear from the public in a short [online survey](#), which closes this Sunday 18 August.



What's your experience of IBD care?



A new IBD (inflammatory bowel disease) patient survey has launched, encouraging everyone with Crohn's or Colitis to make their voice heard and feedback on the care they receive.

Make your voice heard and complete the new [IBD Patient Survey](#). This survey, which closes 23 September, will highlight where IBD teams could improve to give the best possible care.



Meet us this summer

Staff and volunteers will be out and about in the community over the next month gathering the views of local people on health and social care services.

They will be at:

- the **Summer Talk Moor 19** event at Turlin Moor on Saturday 17 August, 11am-3pm.
 - the **Melplash Agricultural Show**, The West Bay Show Ground, on Thursday 22 August, 9am-4pm.
 - Picnic in the Park at Willow Walk, **Wimborne**, on Saturday 7 September, 11am-3pm.
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- Picnic in the Park at Slades Park, **Bournemouth**, on Saturday 14 September, 11am-3pm.
- Student Information Day at **Kingston Maurward College** on Tuesday 10 September, 9:30 am-12.30pm.
- Freshers Fair at **Weymouth College** on Thursday 12 September at 11am-2pm.

More details can be found on our [events calendar...](#)

Healthwatch Dorset 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.



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