

Healthwatch Halton

Advisory Board Members

Recruitment Pack

April 2023

Healthwatch Advisory Board Member Recruitment Pack

If you would like to volunteer to join the Advisory Board of a long established independent public champion In Halton, whose role is to support improvements in NHS health services and social services then we would love to hear from you.

Healthwatch Halton works to bring local people's voices to influence decision makers about their health and care.

This pack gives details of the application process, further information about Healthwatch Halton, the role of the Advisory Board Member and how to apply.

If you would like an informal chat about the role, please contact Dave Wilson either by phone or text 07732 683477 (answerphone outside office hours) or email: dave.wilson@healthwatchhalton.co.uk

To apply, please complete the Expression of Interest form at the end of the pack and email it to dave.wilson@healthwatchhalton.co.uk or post to: Healthwatch Halton, Suite 5, Foundry House, Widnes Business Park, Waterside Lane, Widnes, WA8 8GT.

Alternatively, you can complete the online form at <https://www.healthwatchhalton.co.uk/form/application-form-for-advisory-bo>

If you would like support in applying or require this pack in an alternative format, please contact the office on 0300 777 6543 or email enquiries@healthwatchhalton.co.uk

Once we have received your Expression of Interest form, we will contact you to arrange an informal interview if we believe you have demonstrated that you have the skills and experience for this role.

Dave Wilson
Chief Officer – Healthwatch Halton

About Healthwatch Halton

Healthwatch Halton is the independent health and social care champion for Halton, ensuring people's voices are at the centre of shaping NHS health services and social care services in Halton.

Understanding our work & what we do

1. We actively gather views from local people and communities about their experiences of services. We use these in different ways to influence change.
2. We work together with our health and social care partners to identify how we can have the most influence and make the best use of our resources.
3. When services are planned or changed, we ensure that local people are being listened to. We will always check whether their views have been taken into account.
4. We provide an information, advice and signposting service for the public about finding and accessing health and care services.

Vision and Values of Healthwatch Halton

Purpose:

Healthwatch Halton was established in April 2013 to bring the voices and experiences of local people to influence the decisions made in their health and social care. We use local people's voices and experiences to work to influence planners, decision makers and service providers in Halton. The government provides money for each local authority to set up a Healthwatch. Local Healthwatch have the right to go to places where health and social care is delivered and report what it finds.

Key values:

Values are the principles under which Healthwatch Halton operates. They describe the way we expect everyone who volunteers or works for Healthwatch Halton to behave when doing Healthwatch Halton business.

Our values are:

- To be independent
- To be inclusive
- To be open
- To be supportive
- To be collaborative

Our Ways of working:

Work with local people and communities

We enable and support local people to have their voice heard in the planning and provision of health and social care in Halton. We are flexible and innovative in listening to voices that are not always heard, and make sure that local people are offered as many opportunities to take part and influence as possible.

Working with volunteers

We work together with our volunteers who bring with them a wealth of skills, connections, and knowledge. We support them to develop their talents and recognise their achievements.

Build on what works well

We are committed to building on past learning and experience. We recognise and promote good practice where we find it, working together with partners and communities.

Treat everyone fairly, be open to all

We will always work hard to reach as many people as possible and treat everyone with respect and dignity.

Living the values

We will do what we say, and when we can't, we will be clear about that. We will hold our Board meetings in public and make the reports we write available to all. We will ask for feedback and take it into account when planning our work every year.

Taking stock – measuring what we do

We will reflect on how and where local people's voices have made a difference to how services are planned or provided and use this learning to influence future work. We will publicise any impact we have, making sure that we share this information with those who have contributed to our work in any way.

What can we do?

- ❖ Healthwatch Halton has a responsibility to share the views of the local community.
- ❖ The NHS and Local Authority has a legal responsibility to listen and respond to those views.
- ❖ This is part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and is important as it means we have the power in law to influence local decision making around health and social care.
- ❖ We can ask service providers for information which they must make available to us within 20 days.
- ❖ We can carry out an Enter and View visit to any place where an NHS or Local Authority Adult Social Care service is provided. Our focus is on people's experiences which we share widely with decision makers and the Care Quality Commission.
- ❖ We can refer a matter to the Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These committees must then consider any relevant information we have sent them.
- ❖ The law allows Healthwatch to have a representative on our local Health and Wellbeing Board.

Our Structure

Healthwatch Halton is delivered by Engaging Communities Solutions – a Community Interest Company that delivers a number of Healthwatch throughout England.

A local Healthwatch Halton Advisory Board is responsible for making relevant decisions to guide the work of Healthwatch Halton, under delegated authority of the Non-Executive Directors of Engaging Communities Solutions CIC.

Commitment

The term of office for a member of the Healthwatch Advisory Board is either 2 or 3 years. As a general guide, membership of the Healthwatch Advisory Board would involve at least two days per month, plus:

- Public Advisory Board meetings
- Advisory Board development/business meetings
- Representing HWH at agreed strategic/partner network meetings.

As individuals, board members are expected to:

- Attend meetings being prepared to contribute to soft and local intelligence.
- Develop a thematic interest in particular areas of interest/expertise (e.g., mental health, children and young people, adult social care, volunteering, carers, etc).
- Challenge the content of papers and presentations based on own experience and interests.
- Develop links with Healthwatch partner/network organisations and individuals to support the development of effective Networks.
- Make every effort to attend meetings. If members miss 3 consecutive meetings in any one year, they will be deemed to have resigned unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Respond in a timely manner to emails, calls and invitations.
- Be willing to participate in training and development activities.

Expression of interest form Healthwatch Advisory Board

To apply, please complete the Expression of Interest form and return it by email to dave.wilson@healthwatchhalton.co.uk or post to: Healthwatch Halton, Suite 5, Foundry House, Widnes Business Park, Waterside Lane, Widnes WA8 8GT.

Expression of Interest

I am interested in applying to become an Advisory Board of Healthwatch Halton.

Name:

Contact details:

Phone:

Email:

Please tell us why you are interested in becoming a member of the Healthwatch Halton Advisory Board:

Please describe any skills, knowledge or experience you have in the following areas:

Particular reference should be made where that experience involves the voluntary sector and /or the health and social care sector. Please read the role description and requirements and refer to them where possible.

People skills - an understanding how best to connect with groups and communities:

Knowledge or experience of connecting with people who are not always heard:

Experience of working with people, communities and teams:

Knowledge and or experience of health and care system, voluntary organisations and/or policy writing:

If you have any experience of being in a group or Board, e.g. Financial management or governance, please let us know here:

What access to communities do you have that you are able to bring to the role:



healthwatch
Halton

Suite 5, Foundry House

Widnes Business Park

Waterside Lane

Widnes

WA8 8GT

Tel: 0300 777 6543

E: enquiries@healthwatchhalton.co.uk

www.healthwatchhalton.co.uk