

News from the Healthwatch Advisory Group

Number 6. February 2012.



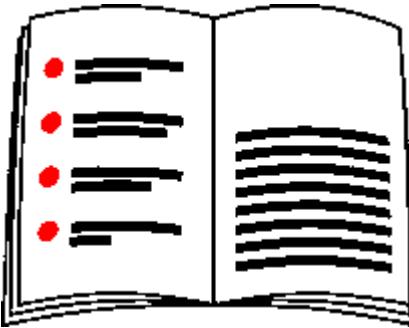
This is the 6th newsletter from the
Healthwatch Advisory Group.



Healthwatch is the new name for
organisations that help patients and the
public speak up about health and social
care.



The **Advisory Group** says how
Healthwatch should work in England.



This newsletter has information about what is happening.



Please use this information to tell your members, or other people you work with about Healthwatch.

Latest News



Extra Money for local Healthwatch

From April 2012 there will be an extra £3.2 million to help local authorities set up local Healthwatch.



This is to pay for costs setting up local Healthwatch like finding and training staff, getting an office and telling people what's happening.



Local authorities will still get money to pay for their Local Involvement Network (LINk).

The Healthwatch money is extra to this and is just for 1 year.



Each area testing out Healthwatch will get £5,000 in February 2012.



This money can be used in any way they want, like:

- telling people what they are doing well



- getting involved in the community



- paying volunteer costs.



If you would like more information please see here:

www.tinyurl.com/HWMoney



Supporting LINks to be as good as they can be

The Department of Health has got people running training meetings this Spring to help LINks be as good as they can be before they change to local Healthwatch.



They want people to learn about:

- how others do things well, so they can too
- being leaders
- getting people involved
- how to have your voice listened to





- speaking up for others



- making sure they treat people fairly and equally.



The Government wants to support the people who give their time to LINks already.



We need to make sure they bring the things they know into local Healthwatch and make that as strong as possible.



If you would like more information please see here:

www.tinyurl.com/LearningEvents

Helping local authorities set up local Healthwatch



The Department of Health is paying the Local Government Association, Regional Voices and the NHS Institute to support local authorities set up local Healthwatch.



They are looking at what has been done so far and will make plans about what to do next.



What do you think about the rules for being a member of Healthwatch England?

People are being asked to help make the rules about how people can be members of Healthwatch England.

March 2012						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	1	Sat	Sun
				2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

We need to know what you think by **Friday, 2nd March**.



For the EasyRead and the longer questions please see here:

www.tinyurl.com/RegsConsult

Main issues



We are still looking at how Healthwatch will work.

At the moment we are looking at:

Information



A workshop came up with these points:

- knowing where to tell people where to go needs you to get on well with others like PALS or the NHS trust



- it is important for Healthwatch to use things that are already there like libraries, voluntary organisations and community groups



- there needs to be a clear plan to hand over information that local Healthwatch will need



- good training and support for staff is important



- some people need more support and help than others



- it is important to have a way of recording information that staff and volunteers are happy with.



These points and others will be looked at in a small group over the next few months. They will write something to help people planning local Healthwatch.

What's next?



We are having more meetings on:

- how we tell people things



- how Healthwatch can get services to buy special things



- how Healthwatch can get everyone involved including people locked up and in short stay places.



This work fits in with the things being found out in test areas.

How to get involved in setting up Healthwatch



The Care Quality Commission and the Department of Health have set up a board and this group to give advice.



The board has some new members on it to make it stronger.



For more information and to read the minutes of the meetings please see the CQC website:

www.cqc.org.uk



A web group has been set up to help people tell us what they think about how plans for Healthwatch England and local Healthwatch are going.



If you would like to join please email:

Healthwatch@nunwood.com



If you would like to find out more about changes to the NHS, please see the DH website:

www.healthandcare.dh.gov.uk



If you have any questions about this newsletter please email:

Healthwatch@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

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