**DH EVALUATION OF LOCAL HEALTHWATCH**

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The DH have released a tender this week for a ‘report into the impact and effectiveness of local Healthwatch’. The contract value is around £75,000 and the report is due to be delivered in December 2014. More info is available at: [http://www.government-online.net/report-impact-effectiveness…](http://www.government-online.net/report-impact-effectiveness-local-healthwatch/)

The internal review will be exploring the factors that affect local Healthwatch delivery against your statutory functions and any non-statutory activity you choose to undertake. Whilst this is a DH-led evaluation project, Healthwatch England will have opportunities to shape the research, support the local Healthwatch who are in evaluation areas and to brief the contractor.

I understand that some of you might be wondering why this evaluation is happening now. The answer is that it is common for the sponsoring Department of a new policy (in our case the DH) to evaluate the impact of their reforms. Our sponsorship team in the Department wanted to wait a while before doing this initial evaluation to give you all a chance to engage with your commissioners and stakeholders so that the evidence they collect gives a richer insight into what is happening on the ground. Having spoken to our sponsorship team about the intention behind this evaluation, it is important to point out that the evaluation has an equal focus on the external factors and stakeholders that might affect your effectiveness and impact.

These external factors might include;

* the decisions and actions of commissioners
* the functioning of Local Area Teams
* the willingness of providers to engage with your recommendations, or whether you are in one of the challenged health economies.

**Not all local Healthwatch will be part of this evaluation work** and we will be working with the Department and contractor to ensure the local Healthwatch in evaluation areas will be sufficiently supported through this process, and given adequate notice of the evaluation coming to their area. If you or an affiliated academic or research organisation is considering biding for the contract, please be aware that any conflicts of interest will be taken into account to ensure this is an independent assessment of practice. Finally, if you want to chat about the project further please do get in contact with the Research & Intelligence team via data@healthwatch.co.uk, or if you want to talk about your impact get in touch with your contact in the development team. All the best, Marc

[**A Report into the Impact and Effectiveness of Local Healthwatch**](http://www.government-online.net/report-impact-effectiveness-local-healthwatch)

A Report into the Impact and Effectiveness of Local Healthwatch The Department wishes to commission an assessment of: \* the impact and effectiveness of local Healthwatch across the full range of their statutory activities (and excluding non-statutory activities - such as carrying out engagement activity on behalf of others - except where this is considered a factor influencing effectiveness and impact ).