

The power of peer-to-peer work with young people



Our Young Listeners have been busy throughout the summer finding out what young people think about the health and social care services they use. [Read our latest blog](#) to find out why this peer-to-peer approach is such a powerful way of working with young people. Our Young Listeners are now analysing feedback and preparing to present their findings to Dorset and BCP Councils in September, ahead of the full report in the autumn.

Last chance to feedback on Dorset's vaccination programme

Your local health and social care champion

healthwatch
Dorset



What do you think about Dorset's Covid-19 vaccine programme?

Share your views and help make health care better for you and your community

Feedback by 31 August 2021

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWD_VaccinationSurvey/
0300 111 0102

Our survey gathering people's views and experiences of Dorset's COVID-19 vaccine programme closes on **31 August**. If you haven't shared your feedback, please take a few minutes to complete our survey or share it with others:

smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWD_VaccinationSurvey/.

Public feedback helps improve patient transport

New rules for NHS transport support were announced this month informed by patient and public feedback. Every patient who needs kidney dialysis will now get free transport to and from vital hospital appointments, and other patients should find it simpler to get free transport, including those with long term conditions and mobility problems.



In 2019, Healthwatch England, in partnership with Age UK and Kidney Care UK, published a report called [There and back](#), which looked at the experiences of over 3,000 people who shared the challenges they faced when travelling to and from NHS services. NHS England then reviewed Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services (NEPTS), working with Healthwatch to make sure the needs of patients were at the forefront of new proposals. [Read more about the changes](#) being introduced to NEPTS and broader NHS transport support.

Pharmacies in England to offer free blood pressure tests



From October, every NHS pharmacy in England will be able to provide free blood pressure checks to people aged 40 and over. NHS England says the new service, which follows a 2019 pilot scheme, will help find thousands more people living with cardiovascular disease earlier and prevent over 150,000 heart attacks, strokes, and dementia cases – a key part of the NHS Long Term Plan. [Read more.](#)

Great to be out and about

We went to the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show in August and really enjoyed talking to people in person. We gathered a lot of feedback about health and care services on the day, particularly Dorset dentists. Healthwatch Dorset volunteer Hazel said: “I spent a very enjoyable two days at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury show. I met some really lovely people with interesting stories.”



Healthwatch Dorset volunteers



We recently asked our volunteers to share their views about volunteering with Healthwatch Dorset. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive, such as: “I have really enjoyed the projects I have been involved in and it has been great to be part of a volunteering group during lockdown.” They also gave us some ideas on how to further develop the volunteering experience.

If you volunteered to support the vaccine programme in Dorset, you will be invited to attend the Volunteer Fair at BIC. We’ll be there on the following dates, so do come and say hello and find out more about our work and volunteering opportunities.

- Monday 6 September – 10am to 12pm
- Wednesday 8 September – 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- Friday 10 September – 10am to 12pm





Share our news

If you know someone who would be interested in keeping up to date with our news or getting involved with our work, please share this bulletin and the [sign-up link](#).

Speak up and help make health and social care better
for you and your community

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. We cover the geographical area of Dorset, which includes the unitary authority areas of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and Dorset.



The **Healthwatch Dorset** service is run by Evolving Communities CIC, a community interest company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 08464602. The registered office is at Unit 2 Hampton Park West, Melksham, SN12 6LH.



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