

New public engagement projects will drive improvements in health and social care



Every year we identify some key areas of health and social care to investigate in-depth, alongside our ongoing work to gather public feedback more generally about all aspects of health and care in Dorset.

Following analysis of public feedback to identify common issues and concerns, and consultation with local health and care partners about national and local priorities, these are the areas we will explore during 2021-2022.

- **Accident and Emergency Care (A&E)** – specifically how new ways of working resulting from Covid-19 have affected people using A&E at Poole Hospital, and A&E patient experience at Dorset County Hospital to inform redevelopment.
- **Young people’s health and social care services** - Young Listeners project.
- **Access to Primary Care services** – particularly how lack of access impacts on health inequalities and health outcomes, how digitalisation has affected patients, and the ongoing lack of access to NHS dentistry resulting from the pandemic.

- **Accessing transport to health and social care services** - including disabled access, access for older people and rural communities, and transport services for the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

[Find out more about our priority projects for 2021-22](#)

[Find out about our other work](#)

Interim findings: what do people think about Dorset's Covid-19 vaccination programme?

At the beginning of March, we launched an online survey to gather people's feedback about Dorset's Covid-19 vaccination programme. We received over 700 responses by the end of March and the survey remains open. We have shared our initial findings with local NHS providers to help them improve vaccine delivery and we will report fully after the survey closes.

[Read our interim findings](#)

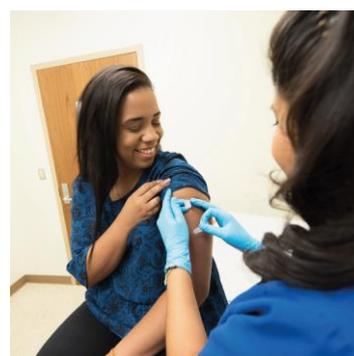
[Feedback and share our survey](#)



The graphic features a teal background with several stylized virus icons. On the left, there is a white vial labeled 'COVID-19 vaccine' and a syringe. The 'healthwatch Dorset' logo is in the top right. The main text reads: 'Share your views about Dorset's Covid-19 vaccine programme'. Below this, it says 'Help our NHS make vaccine delivery as effective as possible.' At the bottom, it encourages to 'Complete our survey or get in touch' with the website 'healthwatchdorset.co.uk' and the phone number '0300 111 0102', accompanied by globe and phone icons.

Transport to your vaccination appointment

Over 600,000 Dorset residents have so far taken up the offer of getting vaccinated against Covid-19. People who need advice about travelling to their appointment, or support with the cost of a taxi journey, should contact their council's Covid-19 helpline or go online:



- Dorset Council: 01305 221000 or [complete the online form](#)
 - Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council: 0300 1237052 or [complete the online form](#)
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Hypertension@Home - join the patient focus group



Dorset GPs are running a trial funded by the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership, to provide blood pressure cuffs to a group of patients living with hypertension, alongside an app that will help patients monitor their condition remotely. They want to understand how these technologies might help people manage the condition and live well.

If you or someone you know, are interested in joining a focus group to help GPs understand the needs of patients with hypertension, [find out more](#)

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 4 Hampton Park West, Melksham, SN12 6LH.



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