

## New project: Seeking young people's views of cancer services



We are working with Wessex Voices on a new project for the Wessex Cancer Alliance called 'Our Cancer Our Way'. We want to find out what children, teenagers, young people, and their parents and carers, think about cancer services in Dorset, and what improvements they would like to see. [Find out more about the project](#) and how to get involved.

---



### Dental reform

Since the start of the pandemic, we have continued to hear from local people about difficulties accessing dentistry in Dorset. Many people aren't able to register with a dentist and struggle to get support when their dental needs become urgent.

A new report from Healthwatch England (24 May), shows that access to NHS dental care continues to be a problem for people across the country, with

---

Healthwatch recording a 22% rise in calls and complaints about dentistry between January and March 2021. [Read more from Healthwatch England.](#)

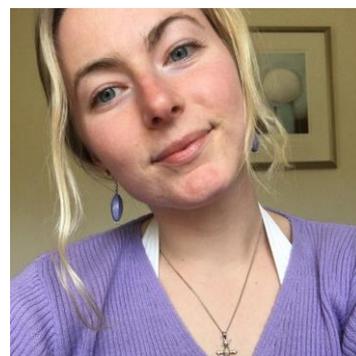
We will continue to monitor the situation locally, working with other regional Healthwatch to encourage NHS England to prioritise plans to improve access for local people. If you have an experience of dentistry, good or bad, then please tell us about it. [Share your views.](#)

If you require urgent treatment call NHS 111 or NHS 0300 311 2233, you can then be referred to see an NHS dentist at an urgent dental care hub or clinics.

---

## Raising awareness of dementia

Dementia Action Week (17-23 May) aimed to raise awareness and help improve the lives of people affected by dementia, including those suffering with the disease, and their family, friends and carers.



Healthwatch Dorset volunteer Emerald (pictured above), shared the moving story of her grandmother Jacqueline, who passed away in 2019. She said: "By removing the taboo around dementia and Alzheimer's, and making more people aware of the importance of early diagnosis, a functioning care system, appointing the power of attorney, your family members can get the chances that my Grandma didn't... I will now create her a legacy by raising awareness of her disease and continuing to remember her as the vibrant and loving woman she was before her diagnosis."

[Read Jaqueline's story and find out more about Dementia](#) and how you can get involved.

---

## Accessing your GP



Last year, when we looked at the impact of the pandemic on how people access health and care services, we found that people were struggling to see a GP face-to-face. This has been an issue across the country and the guidance for GPs has now changed. The Royal College of Physicians and Healthwatch England have issued guidance about what patients can now expect: [NHS appointments and remote care: Knowing your choices](#).

---

## Share your views about Dorset's vaccine programme

As the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to more age groups, we are continuing to gather people's views and experiences of the vaccine programme in Dorset. Share your feedback with us and we will make sure those responsible for vaccine delivery understand and respond to people's needs and expectations. [Find out more and complete our survey](#).



---

## Have your say on specialised services...



Apply to become a Patient and Public Voice partner today.



NHS England and NHS Improvement is recruiting to a range of Patient Public Voice (PPV) partner roles on groups with responsibility for commissioning

---

specialised services. This includes, for example, services treating complex conditions like rare cancers and genetic disorders, and other rare medical conditions or surgical procedures. The closing date for applications is 20 June. [Find out about the roles and how to apply.](#)

---

## Celebrating our volunteers: Volunteers' Week 2021



It's time to celebrate and say thanks for the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering - including those who support our work. Currently we have 97 volunteers, including 46 new volunteers who joined the team this year, and 11 Young Listeners who recently started work on our new youth engagement project.

Healthwatch Dorset Volunteer Officer, Holly Drinkwater, said: "Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do, and I am forever grateful for their help and support. I want to thank everyone of them for the hours that they put in to make sure local people have the opportunity to help shape and improve health and social care services in Dorset."

[Read about the fantastic work our volunteers have done this year.](#) And if you're interested in volunteering, or you know someone who is, visit our website to [find out about our volunteering opportunities.](#)

---

# 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.



*Copyright © 2021 Healthwatch Dorset, All rights reserved.*

**0300 111 0102**

**Healthwatch Dorset · The Bridge · Chaseside · Bournemouth, BH7 7BX · United Kingdom**

<https://www.healthwatchdorset.co.uk>