

Healthwatch to be disbanded – No More....Your Voice @ Health Issues will change.



Spring at Healthwatch: Your Voice Making a Difference

Welcome to our Spring newsletter, packed with the latest stories, projects and updates from **Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**. In this edition, we highlight how local people’s experiences are helping shape health and social care services, alongside the work we’ve been doing with communities and partners across the region.

A note from our CEO, Jess Slater...



As we move through another busy and productive year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the changing national landscape for patient and public voice, and what this means for our communities here in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

At a national level, the NHS Health Modernisation Bill has now been published and is currently being debated in Parliament. The proposals include the abolition of Healthwatch functions

Here in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, we are working closely with our local authority partners to help shape what the future of patient and citizen voice should look like. Over the coming months, we will be holding a series of public engagement events and consultations to hear directly from local people about what matters most to them and how they would like their voices to be represented in the future. I would strongly encourage you to take part and share your views.

We will continue to keep you updated as national discussions progress, with an expected decision on the legislation later this autumn. In the meantime, our commitment remains unchanged: ensuring

across England, marking the most significant change to patient and citizen representation since Healthwatch was established in 2012. If the legislation is passed, Integrated Care Boards and local authorities will be responsible for deciding how patient and citizen voice functions are delivered in the future, either through independent organisations or by bringing these services in-house.

While there remains uncertainty about the final outcome, one thing is clear: the voices of citizens, patients, service users, carers and local communities must continue to play a central role in shaping health and care services. We know from our work every day that listening to people's experiences leads to better decisions, better services and better outcomes.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough welcomes the government's announcement of changes to the GP contract, which will see £300 million of NHS funding redirected to GP practices to help improve access to appointments and expand services.

The changes aim to support practices in recruiting more GPs, increasing availability, at a time when many patients report difficulties getting through on the phone, booking appointments, or accessing face-to-face care.

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the experiences, concerns and of local people are heard by those who plan, commission and deliver services.

Finally, we are excited to share our organisation will soon be embarking on a new chapter, including a new name that better reflects our future role and ambitions. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for further announcements in coming months.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, engagement and commitment to improving health and social care across our community.



Jess Slater

Drawing on feedback from patients locally and nationally, Healthwatch has highlighted the importance of making GP services clearer, fairer, and more accessible, particularly for people who face digital barriers or have complex health needs.

Read the full article [HERE](#) to find out

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what the changes could mean for patients and how your experiences continue to shape national NHS priorities.



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