



Come on Board

Information Pack for Healthwatch Northumberland
Board member applicants

This is a brief outline of Healthwatch Northumberland. You will find more information, including who is already on our board at the [website](#).

If you would like a copy of this document in an alternative format, please call: 03332 408468 or email: derryn@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk.

What is Healthwatch Northumberland?

Healthwatch Northumberland is your independent champion for NHS and social care across the county.

Healthwatch was introduced under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and is part of a network of 152 local Healthwatch, supported at the national level by Healthwatch England. As an independent statutory body, we have the power to make sure NHS leaders and other decision makers listen to public feedback and improve standards of care. Last year we helped 550 people like you to have their say and get the information and advice they needed.

[Find out more about Healthwatch England.](#)

Who runs Healthwatch Northumberland?

Adapt (NE) has been commissioned by Northumberland County Council ('the commissioner') to provide the Local Healthwatch function for Northumberland. Adapt (NE) is a community-based organisation that works to improve the quality of life for those with sensory, physical or learning disabilities, mental health problems, and people who are disadvantaged by living in a rural area.

All legal liability including employment responsibilities sit with the Adapt (NE) Board. Healthwatch Northumberland Board members have no personal liability for Healthwatch Northumberland and are not trustees or directors.

A separate agreement sets out the respective responsibilities and working protocols between the Adapt (NE) Board and the Healthwatch Northumberland Board.

Most importantly, we are independent.
We are not part of the NHS or Northumberland County Council.
We are not part of any health or social care providers or any political party.





How does it work in practice?

Healthwatch Northumberland's day to day work is to listen to communities and individuals across the county, gathering evidence on people's experiences and views of services. We are also a member of the Northumberland Health and Wellbeing Board.

Yes that's a big job! We have a team of six people (4.6 FTE) based in Hexham and led by Project Coordinator Derry Nugent. You can find out more about the team and what we are doing at our website.

What does the Healthwatch Northumberland Board do?

The Healthwatch Northumberland Board guides how Healthwatch Northumberland works and decides what issues it works on each year.

To do this it:

- Sets and monitors a Strategic Plan and an Operational Plan.
- Receives and responds to reports from Northumberland Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Stays informed regarding strategic developments in health and social care at both a county and a national level.

More details about the role and function of the Healthwatch Northumberland Board are covered in the Terms of Reference.

What would I be expected to do?

The main thing you would do is to prepare for and attend four board meetings per year plus a review day.

Meetings take place during the working day, and last approximately 2.5 hours.

Healthwatch Northumberland board meetings are held 'in public' at different locations across the county. We meet on Zoom if necessary.

Board positions at Healthwatch Northumberland are voluntary and unpaid. However, reasonable expenses are reimbursed.

You would attend an induction session to explain the role more fully.

What type of people are you looking for?

We need people from all our communities and with a range of experiences.

All board members are lay persons and volunteers as defined by Regulation 34 (Healthwatch Regulations explained, LGA and Department of Health, 2012). Board members will normally be required to live in Northumberland.

There are 15 Board members who are a mixture of people chosen for their individual knowledge and representatives of organisations working with patients and service users.

Not everyone will have all the knowledge or experiences listed here, so the board operates as a team, blending together what individuals bring.

If you have a skill or knowledge you think is important then apply and tell us about it.

Person Specification

- ✓ Awareness of current health and social care policy and issues, particularly for people with mental ill health, a learning disability or who are those whose experiences aren't being heard and face barriers in accessing the care they need.
- ✓ Ability to develop and maintain constructive working relationships with people from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.
- ✓ Good communication skills with the ability to engage in different ways with different groups and individuals.
- ✓ Ability to exercise balanced judgement when presented with complex problems, considering all implications.
- ✓ Experience or ability to set and monitor organisational strategic and operational delivery.
- ✓ Relevant experience of working in a collective decision-making group, board or committee.
- ✓ Commitment to working towards securing and supporting improvements in health and social care services for service users, carers and the public.
- ✓ Ability to treat people with respect, engage in constructive non-adversarial debate and to articulate balanced, objective views.

How do I apply and what happens then?

Complete the application form addressing the person specification but really say why you want to join us. Applications will be shortlisted based on these criteria.

Send your application to Derry Nugent at:
derryn@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk.

All applications must be received by 9.00am on 1 October 2021.

If a written application is not appropriate for you, an interview-only assessment may be carried out. Please contact Derry Nugent:
derryn@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk.

Invitations to interview will be emailed to shortlisted candidates.

We are using the Zoom video conferencing application for interviews. If you are not familiar with Zoom, we can provide introductory information and a short support session. Please contact Derry Nugent to arrange.

The interviews will be held week commencing 11 October 2021.



Important information

We will not be able to consider your application if you are disqualified from appointment for any of the following reasons:

- You have an unspent conviction for an offence involving deception or dishonesty
- You are an un-discharged bankrupt
- You have been removed from trusteeship of a charity by the Court or the Charity Commission for misconduct or mismanagement
- You are under a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986
- You have entered into a composition or arrangement with their creditors which includes an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA), and is currently on the Insolvency Service Register



Contact us

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