

1) NHS long-term plan: ‘What would you do?’

Local Healthwatch across the country have received funding from Healthwatch England to speak to members of the public about the NHS long-term plan.

Locally, Healthwatch in B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire and STP partners will work together to speak to local residents about the plans that have been set out by the NHS for the next decade. Conversations will take place through a combination of online and paper-based surveys and face to face engagement.

The national **What would you do?** campaign, being led by Healthwatch, aims to encourage people to share their views about how extra money from the Government should be spent on local NHS services. The Government aims to invest £20 billion a year in the NHS as part of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#). Local organisations are now being asked to explore how services could work better for people.

In B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire we are particularly keen to hear people’s views on how services could be improved for older people and, how GP surgeries can work more closely with other services, such as hospitals, pharmacies, mental health and social care, to improve care for people with long term conditions.

We are also inviting people with long term conditions to share their thoughts and views. If people have experiences of cancer, heart and lung diseases, mental health, dementia, learning disability, autism, or a long term condition such as diabetes or arthritis, they can go to www.healthwatch.co.uk/tell-us-what-would-you-do to tell us what they think. All responses are anonymous.

For more information about the **What would you do?** campaign, including more views from local people on what they would like to improve **W:** www.healthwatchbathnes.co.uk/what-would-you-do or you can join the conversation at #WhatWouldYouDo

Please share your views and help us to reach the local community in your areas. The online survey can be found here **W:** www.healthwatch.co.uk/what-would-you-do-general

2) Ongoing project work - focus groups

Over the last few weeks Healthwatch B&NES volunteers have been holding focus groups with local people to talk to them about non-emergency patient transport and changes to over-the-counter prescribing. These two topics emerged as being important to local people following our public meeting in July 2018.

Healthwatch has been working with voluntary sector partners to carry out this work, including SWAN Advice Network and Age UK B&NES. We have more focus groups scheduled on the topic of prescribing during April and early May.

Feedback from these focus groups and any recommendations for service improvement will be collated into a report and shared with commissioners and providers during the spring.

3) **‘What matters to you?’ public meeting**

Healthwatch B&NES holds quarterly public sessions for local people and VCSE colleagues to share ‘what matter to them’. These meetings help us to stay up to date with the issues that are affecting people on the ground, to share updates and findings from our work, and to build relationships with the community.

We held our first meeting last summer. Our second meeting took place in January to discuss changes proposed to maternity services, and our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 3 April, 2 - 4pm at Conygre Hall in Timsbury. All are welcome.

This report was prepared by Alex Francis, Senior Team Manager - Healthwatch, on Thursday 14 March 2019.