

## Join the Healthwatch Central West London Local Committees to make a difference!

Do you believe that people should be at the heart of the way our health and care system is designed and delivered?

At Healthwatch Central West London we have three local committees that represent the three boroughs we work in: Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster.

### What does the local committees do?

- Each committee meets every two months.
- Members work together by communicating via email between meetings.
- Discuss health and care issues that are important for the local community.
- Escalate concerns about health and care services with commissioners and providers by identifying the best routes to do this and presenting Healthwatch's concerns.
- Share knowledge and intelligence to support members on meetings by discussing agendas and papers.
- Invite external stakeholders to provide information and present reports.

### What are the roles and responsibilities of local committee members?

- Inform the local committee about health and care issues affecting residents by engaging with the local community.
- Positively promote Healthwatch to ensure that all members of the community are heard.
- Represent Healthwatch at meetings to ensure the patient voice is being heard.
- Feedback after meetings attended by sharing intelligence with members and staff.
- Review health and social care documents.
- Promote the work of Healthwatch and not their own agenda in meetings.

### Who can become a member of Healthwatch Central West London local committees?

- Everyone who is over the age of 16 is welcomed to become a member. You will need to have a connection to Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, and Westminster (this could be living, working, studying, using services or have community links in the borough).
- Any other individual who has stated they wish to be involved are committed to furthering the objectives of Healthwatch Central West London (Memorandum and Articles of Association).
- Potential members need to demonstrate that they are actively linked into local networks in the community, or can represent residents in the borough and not just themselves.
- Potential members need to have an initially informal discussion with the engagement lead and chair of the local committee to talk about their interest in joining the committee, and the skill, knowledge and contacts that they could bring.

- Members need to regularly attend meetings throughout the year and keep good and regular communications with the other members and Healthwatch staff.

### What statutory powers does Healthwatch have?

- Undertake Enter and View activity, which means that we can visit publicly funded adult health or care services to listen to people's experiences.
- Require commissioners and providers of healthcare to respond formally to Healthwatch reports, requests and letters within 20 working days.
- Act as a consultee in special measures procedures from NHS Trusts.
- Get involved in local governance, strategy and decision-making structures by having a say at meetings.

### What are the meetings where Healthwatch can have a say?

#### Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is hosted by the local council. Its purpose is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by identifying and addressing current and future health and social care needs. It brings together the NHS, public health, adult social care and children's services, councillors, representative of the voluntary and community sector and others.

Healthwatch has a statutory equal place at the board, which provides the opportunity to influence the strategic direction of the healthcare in your borough.

#### Scrutiny Committees

Scrutiny committees come under the council and it has the power to review and scrutinise the planning, provision and operation of health and social care services in the area.

Although Healthwatch doesn't have a seat on the committee, it can raise concerns to scrutiny committees. They must acknowledge receipt and keep Healthwatch informed of any action taken. Healthwatch provides updates on a regular basis to the scrutiny committees.

In each borough they are called:

- Hammersmith & Fulham Adult Social Care and Social Inclusion Policy and Accountability Committee (known as PAC)
- Kensington & Chelsea Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee
- Westminster Family and People Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee

#### Other Meetings

Apart from these meetings, Healthwatch also attends:

- Clinical Commissioning Group Primary Care Commissioning Committees (PCCC)
- Clinical Commissioning Group Quality Patient Safety and Risk Committees (QPSR) • Patient Reference Groups
- Integrated Care Partnership Management Group
- Regular meetings with NHS Trusts, such as the West London Mental Health Trust Transformation Board

- And more

### Interesting in joining?

If you are interested in becoming a local committee member in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, or Westminster, you will need to contact the engagement lead for your borough.

**The current deadline for applications is the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.** You can find information on how to apply on our website at: <https://healthwatchcwl.co.uk/about/local-committees/>

### You can also get involved in other ways

- Share your experience
- Become a Healthwatch Central West London member
- Volunteer as Dignity Champion or in our office

Find out more at [www.healthwatchcwl.co.uk/get-involved](http://www.healthwatchcwl.co.uk/get-involved) or email

[info@healthwatchcentralwestlondon.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchcentralwestlondon.co.uk) / [volunteer@healthwatchcentralwestlondon.org](mailto:volunteer@healthwatchcentralwestlondon.org)