

Healthwatch Rotherham is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services in your local area. We listen to your needs, experiences and concerns, and speak out on your behalf to improve services for everyone.

## March 2021

- COVID-19 update
- Client stories
- Survey update
- Healthwatch... Lets' Talk



### COVID-19 update

The Government announcement on the 22nd February 2021 set out a roadmap for easing lockdown restrictions in England. Details of key dates of when restrictions can be eased have been set out and are available on the Gov.uk website. We will be able to move onto the next stage of the roadmap providing four tests have been passed. The four tests are:

- ◆ The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
- ◆ Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
- ◆ Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
- ◆ Governments assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

Councillor Chris Read, Leader of Rotherham Council gave an update following a meeting of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board on Wednesday 24th February 2021. In the message he praised the vaccination programme in Rotherham stating that it was going really well and lots of the over 60's in Rotherham have now had their first dose of the vaccine.

He also said that we are not out of the woods yet and the rate in Rotherham is not falling as fast as it is in other parts of the country. We need to still :-

- ◇ Stay at home and continue to work from home where possible
- ◇ Adhere to social distancing rules
- ◇ Wash our hands regularly
- ◇ Wear a face covering in indoor public settings or where social distancing maybe difficult

Remember the message of **HANDS—FACE—SPACE**



### Case study 1

Healthwatch Rotherham received a call from a distressed resident who had received a call from the Rotherham vaccine hub who were contacting him to make an appointment for his COVID-19 vaccine. He explained he was receiving treatment at Sheffield Hallamshire Hospital for his condition and would be having the vaccine there the following week when he went for treatment. When the gentleman arrived for his treatment he was told they were no longer able to give him the vaccine as they did not have the stock. This left the resident panicking as he felt he would be left without the vaccine. He contacted us and we were able to make contact with the Hub and his GP Surgery and he received the vaccine locally the very next day. He rang to thank us for our help as he honestly thought he had - "missed his chance"-.

### Survey results—coming soon.

We have now closed our survey looking at the attitudes towards the COVID vaccine in Rotherham. We are currently analysing the data and will publish our findings early next week.

### Case study 2

Sometimes at Healthwatch we receive calls asking for information on services and we can easily provide them with telephone numbers, email addresses etc. and end the call there. Sometimes however, especially during these difficult times it is clear that the caller needs a little more than this and having someone to talk to can help their mental wellbeing. This happened recently when we were contacted by a young mum wanting to know where she could receive help as she felt during the lockdown period her mental wellbeing was going downhill. We chatted about the various support services on offer including Five Ways to Wellbeing, Rotherhive and Get Healthy Rotherham that she could look at. We then got into a general conversation about how the pandemic had changed our lives and how working from home and home-schooling has had an impact on finances—bigger food bills, bigger energy bills...So from this information I was able to refer her into the Citizens Advice Energy Project, where she has been able to receive a £49 voucher for her prepayment meter! Partnership working at its best with the resident at its centre.



### Healthwatch... Let's Talk.....Your Mental Health, 24th Feb 2021

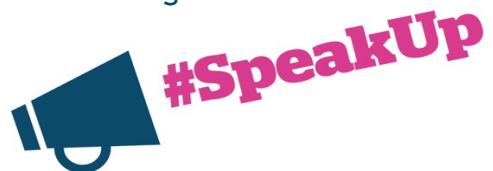
Our February session saw 22 people joining in the Zoom conversation about Mental Health in Rotherham. We talked about what we were grateful for, we had a videos on the black dog and one minute mindfulness and Hannah showed us the contents of her rescue pack! It was an informative session and you can see all the details here <https://healthwatchrotherham.org.uk/news/2021-02-26/lets-talkmental-health-session-24th-february-2021>—thank you to all who attended.

### Healthwatch... Let's Talk.....Covid Mythbusters, 24th March 2021

We realise there are a lot of misconceptions around Covid-19 and more so the vaccine, we have all seen the negative posts regarding the ingredients of the vaccine and its supposed intentions—why not come along to our March session where we will be looking at the facts and dispelling some of the myths surrounding Covid-19

Joining details

[https://zoom.us/j/94824282978?](https://zoom.us/j/94824282978)  
[pwd=Snc1U1h6cGZqZj11ZUFRVHRkSng5QT09](https://zoom.us/j/94824282978?pwd=Snc1U1h6cGZqZj11ZUFRVHRkSng5QT09)  
Meeting ID: 948 2428 2978  
Passcode: 761368



Healthwatch Rotherham is here to listen to your experiences of health and social care services in Rotherham to make sure providers get it right for everyone. If you've had an experience—good or bad—please get in touch

<https://healthwatchrotherham.org.uk/share-your-views>