



news

Local news from your local Healthwatch

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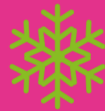
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Healthwatch Rotherham is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services in your local area. We listen to your needs, experiences and concerns, and speak out on your behalf to improve services for everyone.

January 2021

- COVID-19 update
- Vaccine programme
- Client stories
- Healthwatch... Let's Talk
- Elfwatch
- Share your views



COVID-19 update

Rotherham remains in Tier 3—the highest level of coronavirus restrictions—for now. Although the infection rate had been falling steadily over the past few weeks, it remains above the national average. Rotherham's infection rate has also shown an increase in the last few days and we currently have the highest rate in Yorkshire. Keep following the rules over Christmas and think carefully about what you do and who you see. Find the most recent advice at <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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



COVID-19 vaccine programme begins

We all breathed a big sigh of relief when it was announced that the government had authorised the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in the UK, with other vaccines hopefully not far behind. The first Rotherham residents received the vaccine this week and more people will get theirs in the coming weeks and months. We recently undertook a flash survey which showed that **61% of people cannot wait to get the vaccine**, but 34% are still unsure – there are lots of misconceptions and fake news stories about the vaccine, but you can be assured that it is safe and effective. To find out more, contact us or visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>





A resident contacted us in a bit of a panic as he had moved to temporary accommodation in another part of the town, and with everything going on he left it a bit late ordering his repeat prescription for his heart medication. The prescription went to a local chemist in the village where he used to live and the gent had no way of getting there to collect it. We contacted NHS Responders and Rotherham Hub on his behalf but neither were able to assist at such short notice. We called the GP surgery at Braithwell Road in Maltby and the lovely receptionist Tracey worked her magic and the prescription was ready for him to collect 2 hours later from a pharmacy closer to his new place.

A resident contacted us in the summer as she had been waiting for a review of her ADHD medication. She called her mental health team for an update, only to discover that she had been discharged from the service due to a suicide attempt. She had been back to her GP to be referred back into the service but the referral had not been accepted. The resident was due to start university in September and was worried that she would be unable to do this without support. We referred her to Absolute Advocacy for support with raising a complaint and are happy to say she has now received an apology from RDaSH and is back on medication.



Healthwatch... Let's Talk – 11am, Wednesday 20th January 2021

Join us in January for the first of our regular Healthwatch... Let's Talk sessions. These monthly chats (held on zoom to start with) are a chance for the public to join us and find out about an important healthcare issue, and to ask any general questions you might have. We're kicking off with a session on cervical cancer to coincide with Cervical Cancer Prevention Week (18-24 January 2021). If you want to join us, just email info@healthwatchrotherham.org.uk and we'll share the link closer to the time.



Those of you who follow us on Facebook will know that in December Healthwatch becomes.... Elfwatch! We've been joined by our little friends who are full of useful tips about how to stay healthy and get the most out of your local healthcare services.

From all of us at Elfwatch Rotherham, have a lovely Christmas, festive break, and new year!



#SpeakUp



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

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