

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.

July 2021

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



COVID-19 update

The Government announcement on the 22nd February 2021 set out a roadmap for easing lockdown restrictions in England. The next step on the roadmap was set to be Monday 21st June. On Monday 14th June, the Government announced that the next step of easing restrictions was to be delayed another four weeks until Monday 19th July.

This delay was due to an increase in Covid-19 cases. The data will be reviewed after 2 weeks, in case the risks have reduced. The Government will continue to monitor the data and any changes will be confirmed one week in advance.

From 21st June 2021, a limited series of pilot events will take place. Attendees of these events will need to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative Covid-19 test. These events include Euro 2020, Wimbledon and other sports, arts and music performances. It is hoped that these events will be successful and more events can continue to go ahead later in the year.

The latest figures in Rotherham continue to be positive. Rotherham are now below the national average, with 63 cases per 100,000 people, compared to the average in England of 67 per 100,000 (14th June–20th June).

A huge 82% of adults in Rotherham have now had their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, with 65% of adults having had their second dose. (23rd June)

This is a fantastic achievement and we want to thank everybody involved in the vaccine rollout programme for working so hard to make these figures possible. We also want to thank the Rotherham community for their co-operation and for continuing to follow the rules and guidance set nationally.

It is still really important that we all:

- ◇ 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 may be difficult



Case study:

We were contacted recently by an Elected Member who had received a message from a resident in their ward to say they were having problems with some hospital appointments. The lady was really suffering and her appointment had been moved from the end of June to September. We contacted the Patient Experience Team at Rotherham Hospital and The Patient Liaison Team at Sheffield at Hallamshire and explained the problem. After speaking with the consultant and making him aware of the situation both appointments were brought forward. We are happy to help in a situation where the resident is feeling increasingly unwell and would benefit from an earlier appointment, although we do realise that we cannot do this for every case.

Healthwatch... Let's Talk.....Diabetes Awareness—Medicine Management.

Wednesday 23rd June 2021:

Our Diabetes Awareness event had a good turnout of 15 people. The session included a presentation on what diabetes is, a Q&A from Lynda Astbury (Lead specialist nurse, Rotherham Foundation Trust) on Diabetes and a presentation from Stuart Lakin (Head of Medicine Management at Rotherham CCG), with a discussion on what support the CCG can introduce or develop around diabetes. This was followed by a news update from Lisa Holland (Diabetes UK) on Coronavirus and Diabetes, and a talk from David Vickers (Rotherham Older People' Forum) who has Type 2 diabetes. We thank all of our speakers and everyone who attended for another successful event.

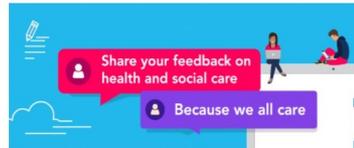
Healthwatch...Let's Talk...Suicide Awareness and Prevention. Wednesday 28th July 2021:

Join us for our next event, Suicide Prevention. The session will feature professionals from mental health services for what will be an informative and important event.

Joining details:

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/95700279140?pwd=a0JCQIRVQjI5OVFkVGNxWGFBR3FFQT09>
Meeting ID: 957 0027 9140
Passcode: 134797

Healthwatch Rotherham Steering Group—recruitment:



Healthwatch Rotherham Steering Group—recruitment of 2 new Voluntary Members

Background

We are currently looking to recruit 2 new volunteer members to sit on our Steering Group, which oversees the operation of the Healthwatch Rotherham contract, and provides guidance, to ensure successful delivery of our work programmes. We are particularly looking for people who have in depth knowledge as someone that has required extensive or ongoing support from a health, mental health or social care services in Rotherham

Commitment

- ♦ The Steering Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 5pm
- ♦ There maybe some background reading of papers prior to the meetings. This is an important part of the role to ensure meaningful contribution by all Steering Group members during our meetings.
- ♦ Anyone with specialist knowledge may be invited to contribute to provide some support or lead to relevant specific pieces of work. This may include the need for a limited number of meetings outside the Steering Group.
- ♦ There may be occasions where you may formally represent Healthwatch Rotherham at a meeting and to support any findings you would be asked to provide a brief written report to the group.

Next steps

Joining the Healthwatch Rotherham Steering Group offers an exciting opportunity to be involved in helping to champion improvements to our health and care services but with this opportunity comes some responsibility so if you are interested

In the first instance please read the Healthwatch Rotherham Steering Group Terms of Reference which can be downloaded from our website or requested via email to info@healthwatchrotherham.org.uk. Following this we would then ask you to contact Lesley Cooper, Service Manager to have an informal chat about the role.

What happens next?

2. You will be asked to complete a simple application form which will tell us a bit more about your skills and knowledge
3. This will then be followed up by a short meeting with the Chair or Deputy Chair of the Steering Group and the Service Manager, to discuss your application and answer any questions you may have.
4. You will be informed as soon as possible after the meeting as to the success of your application and will be given an opportunity to discuss the outcome
5. If your application has been successful, you will be invited to attend the next meeting.



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>