

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.

June 2021

- COVID-19 update
- Client story
- Covid Vaccine myth busting
- 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 Monday 17th May 2021 where we are now able to:

- Have outdoor gatherings of up to 30 people, and indoor gatherings of 6 people or 2 households.
- Indoor entertainment such as cinemas, theatres and children's indoor play areas are permitted to open
- People can attend both indoor and outdoor events including sport and live performances
- Indoor hospitality such as restaurants and cafes can reopen.
- Organised indoor sport including gym classes can take place
- Funeral attendance is no longer limited to 30 people. Limits at weddings, wakes and other commemorative events have been increased to 30 people.
- Care homes will now allow up to five named visitors (2 at any one time) provided they test negative for Covid-19.

The latest figures show a slight increase in the number of people testing positive in Rotherham and we have also seen an increase in patients being admitted to hospital. The rate remains higher than the national average, and is a reminder that as we go into the Bank Holiday weekend we need to continue to :

- ◇ Meet outdoors where possible
- ◇ Reduce the amount of time spent in crowded areas
- ◇ 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—FRESH AIR**



Case study:

Following on from our Covid vaccine survey we were approached by a resident who wanted to let us know that the reason she had not yet had the vaccine was that she was CEV and had been shielding since March 2020. She did not feel comfortable attending a vaccination centre and wanted to ask if there were any plans to operate a “drive through” as had been done with the flu vaccine. We explained that due to residents having to wait 15 minutes after the vaccine to ensure there were no side effects before driving this would not be possible and despite all our reassurances that the vaccine hubs were really well managed for social distancing and infection control we could not tempt her to make an appointment. After a few discussions and emails with the CCG, the vaccine hub and lady’s GP we were able to arrange for the resident and her husband to be vaccinated in the outside picnic area at Oak House. Healthwatch agreed to go along and support the couple in case of any problems. On Sunday 16th May this couple left their home for the first time in 62 weeks and had their first vaccine! They felt so safe and comfortable that they are even thinking of going inside for their second dose “ a fabulous service from all the staff and volunteers”

Covid-19 myth busting sessions:

From some previous work we had done with refugees and asylum seekers we discovered that there was a hesitancy amongst this group regarding the vaccination. So, working in partnership with HARP (the Refugee Councils project on Health Access for Refugees Program) and British Red Cross we were able to successfully apply for some grant funding from Healthwatch England to present some myth busting sessions over Zoom. The sessions were presented in 7 different languages and had some amazing results.

Read the full report on our website here: <https://healthwatchrotherham.org.uk/report/2021-05-24/covid-19-myth-busting-sessions-report>



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Healthwatch... Let’s Talk.....Stroke Awareness 26th May 2021

Our May event saw 18 people attend our Let’s Talk event on Stroke Awareness. We had some excellent guest speakers to discuss what a stroke is, stroke prevention, treatment and recovery. We also heard from two stroke survivors Christine and John, who were incredibly inspiring and interesting.

A huge thank you to Norma Roberts from the Stoke Association, Gemma Hayden TRFT Dr.Phillipa Davies and Dr.Sophie Moore (STH) for being our fantastic guest speakers. An overview of the event will be available on our website shortly

Healthwatch...Let’s Talk...Diabetes Awareness Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Join us for our next event, Diabetes Awareness— Medicine Management. The session will feature healthcare professionals who will be able to answer any questions or concerns you have regarding diabetes and treating diabetes. We look forward to seeing you there.

Joining details:

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://zoom.us/j/93169505277?](https://zoom.us/j/93169505277?pwd=VDJmVUkrU2pvRWkxdUN1Ti8vcIB6UT09)
pwd=VDJmVUkrU2pvRWkxdUN1Ti8vcIB6UT09

Meeting ID: 931 6950 5277
Passcode: 917313



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