



Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire Annual Work Plan

April 2023 – March 2024



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Date	Actions	Notes
16/02/2023	HWNW Planning Group workshop to review vision, values and strategic priorities. Review of work 22/23. Discuss priorities for 23/24.	KH updated draft workplan and strategic priorities as per the meeting.
23/3/2023	HWNW Planning Group to review draft workplan V4 and sign off.	1 minor amendment – V5
24/04/2023	V5 - HWNW Advisory Board to agree and ratify.	Ratified 24/04/23
26/04/2023	Send to Commissioners and publish on website.	Completed
31/07/2023	Reviewed by Planning Group 03/08/23	Updated by KH 31/07/23
27/11/2023	Revised by HWNW Manager and reviewed by CEO 27/11/23	Updates on progress and projects for the work plan by GVB 27/11/23

Summary

The Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire (HWNW) annual work plan helps provide commissioners and key stakeholders with an overview of planned activity for the next 12 months. It is also a useful tool for review and evaluation.

Each year in February, Healthwatch staff and volunteers review the previous year's work and set the next year's work based on information and intelligence gathered throughout the year along with other partner and stakeholder key priorities.

Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire's strategic priorities are also revisited and reviewed at the same time to ensure they are aligned with our Vision and Values¹.

All our work is delivered within a very tight budget, which currently stands at £195,000 per annum to cover staff, volunteer expenses and operational costs, such as office premises, insurance, IT support, payroll, Investing in Volunteers accreditation, etc. To enable us to continue to provide a quality service with an experienced staff team we also offer bespoke commissioned work to key stakeholders and partners to bring in additional income throughout the year to support the Healthwatch work.

Background

About Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire

Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire is the local independent consumer champion for all publicly funded health and social care. We are part of a national network of local Healthwatch organisations. Our central role is to be a voice for local people to influence better health and wellbeing and improve the quality of services to meet people's needs. This involves us visiting local services and talking to people about their views and experiences. We share our reports with the NHS and social care, and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) (the inspector and regulator for health and social care), with recommendations for improvement, where required.

Our rights and responsibilities include:

- We have the power to monitor (known as "Enter and View") health and social care services (with one or two exceptions). Our primary purpose is to find out what patients, service users, carers and the wider public think of health and social care.
- We report our findings of local views and experiences to health and social care decision makers and make the case for improved services where we find there is a need for improvement
- We strive to be a strong and powerful voice for local people, to influence how services are planned, organised and delivered.
- We aim to be an effective voice rooted in the community. To be that voice, we find out what local people think about health and social care. We research patient, user and carer opinions using lots of different ways of finding out views and experiences. We do this to give local people a voice. We provide information and advice about health and social care services.

¹ www.healthwatchnorthamptonshire.co.uk/what-we-do

Where we feel that the views and voices of Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire and the people who we strive to speak on behalf of are not being heard, we have the option to escalate our concerns and

report our evidence to national organisations including Healthwatch England, NHS England and the Care Quality Commission.

Read more about the work we carried out in 2022/2023 in our most recent annual report: (To be published in June 2023)

See Appendix 1 for details of what the legislation says Healthwatch must do.

See Appendix 2 for our Strategy, Vision and Values.

Key Performance Indicators

Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire's performance is monitored by the commissioners of the service on a quarterly basis against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Local Healthwatch statutory duties must also be considered, such as membership of the Health and Wellbeing Boards for North and West Northamptonshire.

The Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire contract is monitored against six high level outcome measures. These are:

1. Local Healthwatch is positioned as a trusted and recognisable brand within Northamptonshire: a visible, influential, independent body that champions quality and provides consumers with a strong voice.
2. People in Northamptonshire have ready access to the information/support they need when making health and social care choices, assisted through local Healthwatch systems that signpost to existing sources of support/datasets. Healthwatch will clearly position itself to add value to already existing sources of information and advice, not replicate them.
3. Health and social care services, both local and national, are demonstrably influenced by the delivery of the consumer voice, including the experiences and views of children and young people and those of minority and traditionally marginalised communities, co-ordinated through local Healthwatch, leading to service improvement actions that build on the patient and service user experience.
4. Local Healthwatch provides a credible and influential presence at agreed key local authority and health commissioning and governance fora - most notably as a member of the Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board: ensuring that consumers have the opportunity to influence and co-design policy and commissioning decisions.
5. Healthwatch will make the views and experiences of local people known to Healthwatch England and make recommendations to Healthwatch England (and the Care Quality Commission), helping to carry out the role of national champion.
6. Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire demonstrates robust and transparent governance arrangements, strong performance management capabilities and processes. Able to demonstrate its clear accountability to those it is charged with supporting.

Under the high-level outcomes are a set of performance indicators and measures to demonstrate the impact and achievements of Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire.

Responding to changes in Northamptonshire

Unitary councils

The eight borough and district councils in Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire County Council were replaced with two unitary councils on 1 April 2021, North Northamptonshire, and West Northamptonshire.

West Northamptonshire unitary council serves the areas of Daventry, Northampton and South Northants, and a North Northamptonshire unitary authority serves Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants.

Each upper tier authority is required by law to have a Healthwatch. This restructure meant that during 22/23 Healthwatch Northamptonshire had to go through a rebranding exercise to be renamed as Healthwatch North Northamptonshire and Healthwatch West Northamptonshire. Healthwatch England helped by redesigning the logo and it was agreed that it could be shortened to Healthwatch West and North Northamptonshire for ease of use. This has entailed quite a lot of additional, unplanned work on the website, social media, policies, documentation, and marketing materials without additional funding to support this.

As Young Healthwatch is not a statutory requirement they opted to remain as Young Healthwatch Northamptonshire.

Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire Advisory Board update

In response to the change of council structure, we refreshed Board membership and recruited new Advisory Board members in 2022 who represent West and North Northamptonshire, depending on their residency. They particularly help champion the voices of:

- Carers
- Mental health
- Services for children, young people and families
- Acute services
- Learning disabilities and special educational needs
- Physical disabilities and impairments
- GP services
- Black and Minority Ethnic communities
- Ambulance services, transport, and accessibility

The purpose of the Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire Advisory Board is to provide guidance and oversee the operation and delivery of our work programmes. The Advisory Board is informed by public feedback, the Planning Group, health and care system partners and Healthwatch England.

The Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire Advisory Board and Planning Group also use the Decision-Making policy to help prioritise work and develop future work plans, as well as approving any other proposed projects throughout the year.

Development of this annual plan was led by our volunteers at meetings in February and March 2023, where they also reviewed and updated our Vision, Values and Strategic priorities.

Planning Group and Working Groups

The Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire (HWNW) Advisory Board is supported by a Planning Group that receives health and social care information from across the county and updates on all HWNW projects. They are supported by time limited task and finish groups for specific work and projects. Volunteers and other members of the public may attend any working group they are interested or have expertise in.

Annual Workplan 2023 - 2024

The rationale for including topics in our work plan includes:

- Subjects where Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire has received a significant amount of feedback from service users which suggests there is a gap in or inequality of service provision.
- Health and social care priorities that have been identified in commissioning intentions from Integrated Care Northamptonshire (ICN), local authorities and others.
- Priority areas that align with the work streams of the ICN, local hospital trusts, the Health and Wellbeing Boards, Public Health Northamptonshire and others.
- Areas of concern raised by Healthwatch England, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) or NHS England.

The Planning Group has identified several potential areas for ongoing and future work.

2023/24 HWNW Priorities

After the priority setting workshops with Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire Planning Group volunteers and Board Members, clear priority themes and work areas for 2023/24 emerged.

These are the things we MUST do:

1. Produce a 22/23 annual report by 30th June and continue to demonstrate impact
2. Hold an annual meeting open to the public
3. Contract re-tender and feedback/learning to Commissioners - current contract ends 31st October 2023
4. Recruit and induct new staff to build capacity
5. Recruit and induct new volunteers to build capacity
6. Continue to review policies and update volunteer handbook
7. Transfer public feedback from Civi CRM to IMP (Civi was previously supported by Healthwatch England but this support will be withdrawn March 2023)
8. Provide a signposting and feedback service to the public
9. Hold 4 meetings in public per year - HWNW Advisory Board
10. Organise 12 Outreach events - to continue to promote HWNW and recruit volunteers
11. Support Young Healthwatch and engagement with children and young people - resources permitting
12. Continue to attend provider and commissioner meetings across the 2 unitary authority areas e.g. Health and Wellbeing Boards, to ensure the public and public views are represented at all levels
13. Respond to Providers Quality Accounts
14. Respond to health and social care consultations

The additional priority areas that HWNW discussed at their 2 workshops were:

- Integrated Care Northamptonshire and its new 10-year strategy (<https://www.icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjjm4n21837.pdf&ver=53062>)
- Healthwatch England priorities (<https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/report/2021-05-13/our-strategy-2021-2026>)
- GP services
- Kettering General Hospital
- Northampton General Hospital
- Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and mental health services
- Dentistry
- East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and patient transport
- Children's services and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Maternity Services
- Social care

With a limited budget of £195k per annum it is not possible for HWNW to cover all areas of health and social care in Northamptonshire. Therefore, it was agreed that along with the MUST DO work, the following areas would be prioritised for additional work throughout the year:

1. Access to dentistry - to keep a watching brief and continue attendance at the Northamptonshire Oral Health Alliance (NOAH) meetings.
2. Restart 15 Steps ward audits at KGH and NGH
3. Attend patient experience working group meetings at NGH, KGH and NHFT to provide public feedback to commissioners and providers
4. Keep a watching brief on the development of the Community Diagnostic Centres and support public engagement
5. Undertake maternity visits to both NGH and KGH
6. Organise jointly with the University of Northampton the Black History month event postponed from October 2022
7. Complete the Change Grow Live project started in February 2023
8. Work with the East Midlands Regional Healthwatch on mental health enter and views across the region
9. Review issues raised by the public on patient transport and decide later in the year on a specific project
10. Following on from our March 2023 GP Access report keep a watching brief throughout the year

Further operational project plans will be developed to deliver the work on these priorities throughout 2023/24.

This plan will be reviewed on an ongoing basis by the HWNW Planning Group and Commissioners.

See Appendix 3 for a detailed list of all work and meetings.

Appendix 1: What does the legislation say about Healthwatch

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, which was amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, outlines the main legal requirements of Healthwatch. This is underpinned by many other regulations which give more detail about how activities should be undertaken.

The law refers to the roles of:

- Local authorities - who are required to make provision for Healthwatch.
- Providers of Healthwatch services (referred to as Healthwatch).
- Healthwatch England - whose main role is to provide advice and support to every Healthwatch

Legislative frameworks are often complex. It is important to consider what legislation states about Healthwatch, local authorities and Healthwatch England. It says:

- What they must do (duties)
- What they may do (powers)
- What is prohibited

Local authorities must make provision for the following statutory activities:

- Promoting and supporting the involvement of local people in the commissioning, the provision and scrutiny of local care services.
- Enabling local people to monitor the standard of provision of local care services and whether and how local care services could and ought to be improved.
- Obtaining the views of local people regarding their need for, and experiences of, local care services and importantly to make these views known to those responsible for commissioning, providing, managing, or scrutinising local care services and to Healthwatch England.
- Making reports and recommendations about how local care services could or ought to be improved. These should be directed to commissioners and providers of care services, and people responsible for managing or scrutinising local care services and shared with Healthwatch England.
- Providing advice and information about access to local care services so choices can be made about local care services.
- Formulating views on the standard of provision and whether and how the local care services could and ought to be improved; and sharing these views with Healthwatch England.
- Making recommendations to Healthwatch England to advise the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to conduct special reviews or investigations (or, where the circumstances justify doing so, making such recommendations direct to the CQC); and to make recommendations to Healthwatch England to publish reports about issues.
- Providing Healthwatch England with the intelligence and insight it needs to enable it to perform effectively.

Appendix 2: Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire Strategy and Vision

Our vision

'Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire will be a strong, resolute, and independent community champion. We will give local people a voice and work in partnership to influence the design and quality of health and social care provision so that all local people have an opportunity for an improved quality of life.'

- *Healthwatch Staff and Volunteers*

Our values

- We will be accessible and visible
- We will be independent and objective
- We will be open, honest, and transparent in all that we do
- We will be inclusive and embrace diversity and equality, reflecting the diverse needs of local people
- We will listen to and understand the views and needs of local people
- We will speak up for local people and enable people to speak for themselves
- We will be fair and credible
- We will seek out and use evidence, including that from the public, to inform our work
- We will strive to make a positive difference and champion the best possible health and social care for local people

Our strategy

We have five strategic priorities:

1. To deliver our statutory functions
2. To champion the views of all people who live in or use health, social care or wellbeing services in Northamptonshire and commit to prioritising issues relating to health inequalities
3. To recruit and develop staff and volunteers in Northamptonshire to continue to build the capacity of Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire as an independent consumer champion of health, social care and wellbeing
4. To work in co-production for improved health, social care and mental health outcomes for adults, including vulnerable adults and carers
5. To work for improved health, social care and mental health outcomes for children, young people and families

Appendix 3: Workplan timescales and priorities

This table summarises all work plan activities, including routine and project work, and forecast timing for 2023/2024. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

In the event that new or unanticipated work arises during the year, which is determined to be a higher priority (following use of the decision-making policy) and/or the scope or time/resource requirement of any current project extends, Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire and Connected Together (the contract holder) reserve the right to revise the agreed 2023/24 work plan and deliverables as appropriate through discussion with the commissioner.

Routine activities

Work area/theme	Notes	Timescales	Who responsible	Update
Horizon scanning and mapping with Providers/Commissioners	Meetings with CEOs/Chairs/directors. Joint meetings with the CIC Board and Healthwatch.	Ongoing	Chair/CEO	Ongoing. Meetings listed in CEO and Chair updates to the quarterly HWNW Board Advisory meetings
HWNW Advisory Board meetings	Strategic direction.	Ongoing	Chair	Quarterly Ongoing
HWNW Advisory Board development	Strategic direction: Board briefings held monthly with CEO.	Ongoing	Chair/CEO	Ongoing
HWNW Annual meeting	Date to be agreed	TBA	Chair/CEO	Monday 23 rd October at St Andrew's.
Planning Group	Operational direction	Ongoing	HWNW Manager	Bi-monthly Ongoing
Task and Finish Groups	Ad hoc and project-based. See projects	Ad hoc	All	Patient Transport & Enter and View Task and Finish Groups held on - 03/10/2023
Consultations	HWNW Advisory Board to determine and be responsive to changing demands.	Ongoing	HWNW Manager/All	Ongoing
Projects	Maternity Visits Black History month event KGH 15 steps ward audits Change Grow Live (in progress)		Task and Finish Group/CEO/Policy Assistant/Research Assistant	Maternity visits - reports finished July and August 2023 KGH 15 Steps Audits halted, approach has been changed to Enter and Views in NGH and

	Regional MH project.			KGH, volunteers retrained on Healthwatch standards, E&Vs will commence in 2024 CGL - completed CUCC - completed East Midlands Regional HW project halted until April 2024, independent work with IMPACT at St. Andrews will commence in January 2024. Black History Month event did not happen due to clashes, we did have a meeting with the University of Northampton's Ethnic lead, but the event did not occur in the end.
Dentistry	Monitor concerns raised by the public		CEO/HWNW Advisory Board	Ongoing
Community Diagnostic Centre	Watching brief. Public engagement.		CEO/HWNW Advisory Board	Ongoing
Marketing strategy/ PR/Comms	Work in conjunction with Northamptonshire Integrated Care communications team to publicise key messages.	Ongoing	CEO/Communications apprentice	<i>Weekly social media posts. Monthly newsletters. Press releases as required. Friday update emails to all volunteers.</i>
Website/newsletter/ social media	Monthly newsletter, regular social media postings on Facebook and Twitter, HWNW website to be reviewed and updated	Ongoing	CEO/Communications Apprentice	<i>Ongoing</i>
Engagement events	HWNW Board to determine key high-profile events countywide and review priorities and resources available. Bookings of events are ongoing and subject to providers releasing dates of events.	Ongoing	HWNW Manager/ HWNW Officer/All	Event planned with the University for Black History Month in October postponed because of clashes with other organisations. 12 outreach events planned for 23/24

	12 Outreach events 23/24			Ongoing
Signposting and outreach	Web and telephone service	Ongoing	HWNW Manager/ HWNW Signposting and volunteer Co-ordinator. Comms Apprentice.	Ongoing
Engagement with seldom heard groups	We work or have links with the following groups for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Northamptonshire • NHFT Moving Ahead project/Community Engagement Project (BAME) • Autism East Midlands (CYP) □ Young Carers (CYP) • Deafconnect (Hearing impaired CYP and adults) Northants Parent Forum Group (SEND)	Ongoing	HWNW Manager/ HWNW Officer	Ongoing
Patient Engagement Groups/Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend essential NHFT/KGH/NGH/SAH meetings to enable information sharing about the patient/service user experience, prioritising those linked to main project work areas. • Information sharing meetings with CQC/NCC/CCGs re residential and domiciliary care providers. 	Ongoing Usually bi-monthly	Signposting and Volunteer Co-ordinator and all volunteers.	Ongoing
Intelligence reporting to HWE and CQC	As per agreed research area and report production see Projects section below	Ongoing	HWNW Manager/ Research Assistant	Ongoing
Quality Account responses	NHFT/NGH/KGH/SAH/EMAS	Late April/May	HWNW Advisory Board and HWNW Manager	Annual

Volunteer strategy	Support current cohort of volunteers and maintain current level of capacity	Ongoing	Signposting and Volunteer Co-ordinator	Ongoing
Volunteer training	Maintain regular programme of training to ensure maintenance of capacity. Safeguarding vulnerable adults and safeguarding children and young people Zoom sessions held led by CEO for staff and volunteers.	Ongoing	HWNW Manager/signposting and volunteer co-ordinator	Ongoing
Volunteer recruitment	Ensure targeted recruitment to sustain existing capacity and ensure the availability of the right mix of volunteers to support the agreed work programme (communicating with different groups).	Ongoing	HWNW Manager/Signposting and volunteer co-ordinator	Ongoing
Young Healthwatch (YHNW)	To be reviewed when new officer in post		YHNW Lead/ Supported by all	New officer in post from 15/05/23 Our new Projects and Engagements Officer hired in September 2023, they have taken the lead on YHW and are planning to have an engagement event at NGH in November 2023.
ICS/NHCP	Involvement in workstreams. Previously involved in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary, Community and Social Care Workstream • Collaborative Stakeholder Forum • CYP Workstream 	As required	HWNW Manager/ HWO/Volunteers	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent Care • Digital Framework • Cancer • iCan 			
Annual report		30 June 2023	Chair/CEO/All staff	Annual- COMPLETED

<p>Regular meetings attended by volunteers and staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Board - North - Sheila White • Health and Wellbeing Board - West - Wendy Patel • NOHA - Chris Drage • ICS Strategy Board - Morcea Walker/Kate Holt • Community Diagnostic Centre Programme Board - Kate Holt • HWNW Advisory Board - all Board members • HWNW Monthly briefings - all Board members • Joint CTCIC/HWNW Board meetings - all Board members • iCan People Advisory Group - Sheila White • East Northants Urban LAP - Sheila White • East Northants Rural LAP - Sheila White • WNC Executive PLACE Delivery Board - Caroline Gooch • East Northants CWF - Sheila White • Corby CWF - Dora Shergold • Kettering CWF - • Wellingborough CWF - Ishver Patel • East Northants Rural LAP - Oundle - Sheila White • Wellingborough Rural LAP - Susan Hills • Wellingborough Urban LAP - Ishver Patel • NHFT Patient Safety - Sheila White • NHFT/Leicester Terrace Pressure Tissue Damage - Sheila White 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KGH PCEEG Group - Carol Holman-Bowers • NHFT PPEG Steering Group - Carol Holman-Bowers • NHS Northampton Integrated Care Board Information Sharing - Carol Holman-Bowers • NGH PCEE Group - Carol Holman-Bowers • Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board - Morcea Walker • NSAB Delivery Board - Morcea Walker • NSAB Communications and Engagement sub-group - Morcea Walker • NSAB Quarterly Performance sub-group - Morcea Walker • ICS Strategy Development Board - Morcea Walker/Kate Holt • HWE regional meetings - Kate Holt • HWNW Contract Monitoring - Morcea Walker and Kate Holt • ICS Primary Care Steering Group - KH • PAUSE - Chris Drage • NOHA - Chris Drage • NHS Complaints Review Committee - Dora Shergold • KGH PPEG - Wendy Patel • NGH Quarterly Dementia Steering Group - Ishver Patel • NHFT Joint Strategic Pressure Ulcer Steering Group - Sheila White • IOAN PAG - Sheila White • VSCE Steering Group - Dora Shergold • ICS North Northants Steering Group - Dora Shergold
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About Connected Together

Connected Together Community Interest Company (CIC) is the legal entity and governing body for Healthwatch North and West Northamptonshire.

The remit of the Connected Together CIC includes:

- Contract compliance
- Legal requirements
- Financial and risk management
- Sustainability and growth
- Agreeing strategy and operations
- Agreeing policies and procedures

Connected Together CIC is a social enterprise and a partnership between the University of Northampton and Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire. It aims to be first for community engagement across the county of Northamptonshire and beyond.

By using our expertise and experience, we can help you in delivering community engagement programmes including workshops, research, surveys, training and more. Contact us to find out how we can help your community.

We welcome ideas and suggestions for projects that benefit Northamptonshire and its community.

Find out more at www.connectedtogether.co.uk



Connected Together
First for Community Engagement