

News from the HealthWatch Advisory Group

Number 1. 22 June 2011.



This is the first newsletter from the **HealthWatch Advisory Group**.



HealthWatch is the new name for organisations that help patients and the public speak up about health care.



The **Advisory Group** are helping set up HealthWatch in England.



This Newsletter has information about what is happening with HealthWatch.

It will be sent out by:



- the Department of Health



- the Care Quality Commission



- the National Association of LINK members



- other Advisory Group members.



Please use this information to tell your members, or other people you work with about HealthWatch.

Latest News



The government used a **listening exercise** to ask people about changes to the NHS. The government's reply to what people said was published on the 20th June.



They said **Local HealthWatch** and **HealthWatch England** will be launched in October 2012.



- **Local HealthWatch** will make sure people who plan and pay for services listen to patients and carers in their area



- The Care Quality Commission will set up **HealthWatch England** to support these local groups.

What about LINKs?



LINKs or Local Involvement Networks help local people and groups to work together to make health and social care services better.



LINK's work will be carried out by Local HealthWatch from October 2012.

Information



They will do all the things LINKs do now and will also:

- tell people where to get services and support



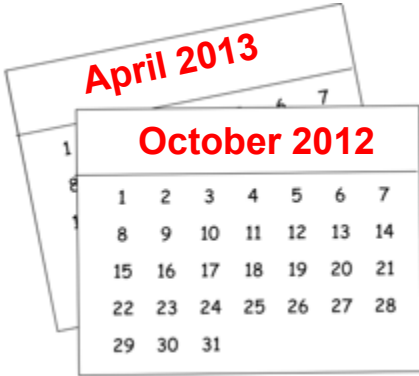
- be responsible for advocacy for people who want to complain about the NHS



- be able to hire their own staff.



Parliament has to pass laws to make these changes.



Local HealthWatch will start in October 2012 and NHS complaints advocacy in April 2013.



Getting ready for these changes

The HealthWatch Advisory Group and other local and national organisations are looking at how HealthWatch will work.



In the Advisory Group we have talked about:

- how to keep supporting LINks while things change.



- making sure local councils and Local HealthWatch are really clear about how to work together and what they do.

HealthWatch Advisory Group sub groups



We have 4 working groups to look at:



- how HealthWatch England will work



- what we need to do to set up Local HealthWatch



- making a good local HealthWatch



- the plan for involving people and telling them about HealthWatch (communication group).

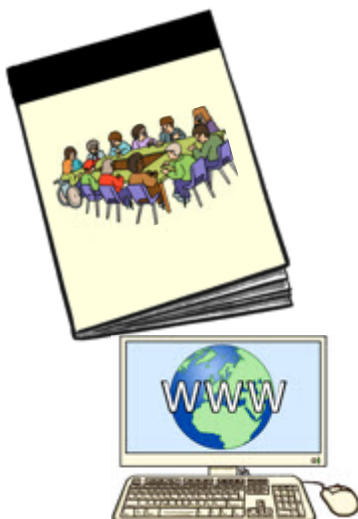


The communication group met in June to talk about the website and telling people about HealthWatch.

Getting involved in HealthWatch



The Care Quality Commission and Department of Health are working together to set up HealthWatch.



There is information about the groups doing this on the Care Quality Commission website:

www.cqc.org.uk



There will be an **online forum** where you can say what you think about HealthWatch and how it should be set up.

If you would like to join this forum, please email



healthwatch@nunwood.com



There is more information about the government's ideas for changes to the NHS on the Department of Health website:



www.healthandcare.dh.gov.uk



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