

News from the HealthWatch Advisory Group

Number 4. November 2011.



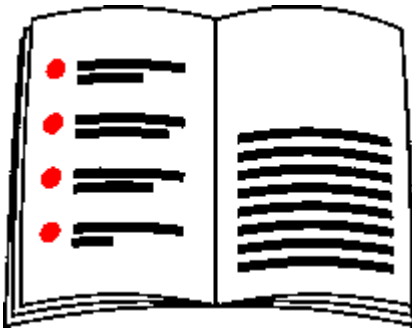
This is the 4th newsletter from the **HealthWatch Advisory Group**.



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



The **Advisory Group** says how HealthWatch should work in England.



This Newsletter has information about what is happening.



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

Latest News



The House of Lords are talking about the Health and Social Care Bill 2010 – 2011.

This is the law that will make the changes to set up HealthWatch.



You can check how things are going on the parliament website:

www.tinyurl.com/HSCbill

Where did HealthWatch come from?



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



Local HealthWatch will start from October 2012.



They will help make sure people who plan and pay for services listen to patients and carers.



The new organisation called **HealthWatch England** will be part of the Care Quality Commission (CQC).



The Care Quality Commission checks all health and adult social care services in England.

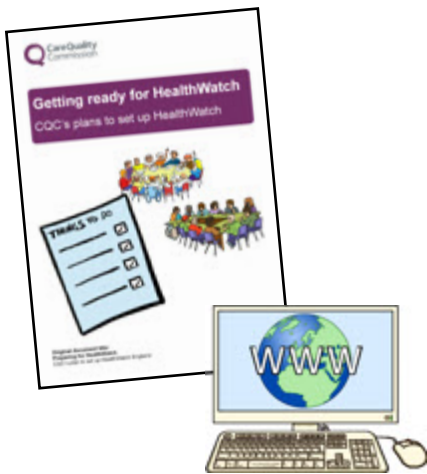
Important things for HealthWatch England



The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has told everyone about their plan for setting up HealthWatch England.



It says what needs to be done for HealthWatch England to start on 1st October 2012.



There is a copy of the plan on the CQC website:

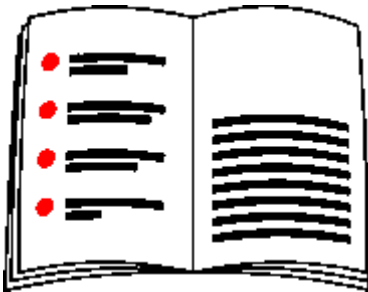
www.tinyurl.com/prepareHW

Important things for Local HealthWatch



75 HealthWatch Pathfinders have been set up in different parts of England.

Pathfinder groups will work out how to do things before Local HealthWatch is set up.

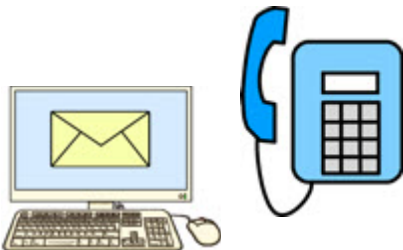


The Department of Health has written about:

- what different Pathfinder sites are doing



- where they are in England



- how to contact them.



This information is on their website:



www.dh.gov.uk

What the HealthWatch advisory group has been talking about



The HealthWatch Advisory Group has groups to look at things we need to do to set up HealthWatch.



There were 5 groups but 2 groups thinking about Local HealthWatch are now working together.



Other groups will be set up when these groups have finished their work.

This is what the groups have been talking about:

1. How HealthWatch England will work



This group agreed, HealthWatch England:

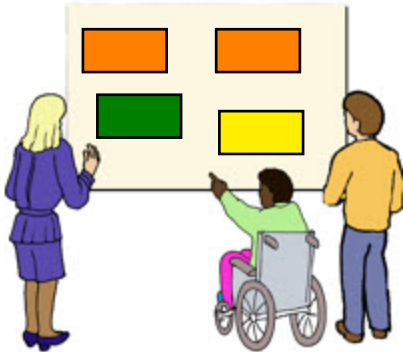
- should provide templates for local HealthWatch organisations to collect information
- should share information with local HealthWatch organisations
- does not need offices in each part of England but will support local HealthWatch organisations.



2. Local HealthWatch

- LINKs will have to **become** a legal organisation if they want to try to become a local Healthwatch organisation





- there are other choices for LINKs that work really well



- the Department of Health will not say how local HealthWatch should be set up



- LINKs need to think about important dates like November or December 2011 when local councils find out how much money they get from the government



- each of the 8 regions of England has a regional transition lead to help them make the changes.

March 2012						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Their job will probably end in March 2012.

3. Involving people and telling them about HealthWatch



The group were presented with the first ideas for HealthWatch logos and materials.



Next year Local HealthWatch groups will get a 'toolkit' with things like the logo and ideas to help them set out leaflets.



We hope all Local HealthWatch groups will use the logo and other materials to save work and money and give a clear message to the public.



Pathfinders and LINKs should wait for the 'toolkit' and not work on their own logos and materials during the changeover time because this will confuse the public.



We hope to have conferences early next year to talk about this.



There will be information about the conferences on the HealthWatch online community in the next few months.



If you would like to join the community please email:

healthwatch@nunwood.com



4. Getting involved in HealthWatch



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



There is a programme board and an advisory group.



You can find out more about these groups and read the notes from their meetings on the CQC website:



www.cqc.org.uk/

You can have your say by joining the HealthWatch online community.



Please email:

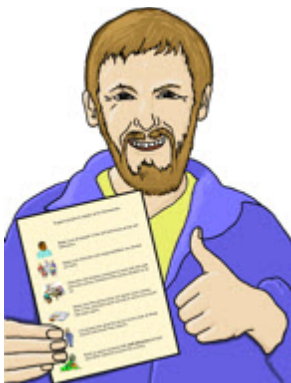
healthwatch@nunwood.com



And to find out more about planned changes to the NHS please go to the Department of Health website at:



www.healthandcare.dh.gov.uk



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