

# News from the HealthWatch Advisory Group

Number 3. 13 October 2011.



This is the 3rd 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.

## 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.



LINKs are changing to become Local HealthWatch.



This will make them stronger when they:

- help patients and the public speak up about health and social care



- make sure people who plan and pay for NHS services listen to patients and carers.



A 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.



These changes will be in a new law called the Health and Social Care Act.

## Latest news



The Health and Social Care Bill is being talked about in the House of Lords at the moment before it becomes a law.



You can find out more on this website:

**[www.tinyurl.com/HSCbill](http://www.tinyurl.com/HSCbill)**

# Important things for Local HealthWatch groups



It is important that there is a smooth changeover from LINKs to Local HealthWatch groups.



LINKs should now be talking to local councils about what they want the new Local HealthWatch to be like.



It is up to local councils to decide who will be on the new Local HealthWatch group.

In some areas this will be people from LINKs, but in other areas it may not.



Unlike local LINKs, new Local HealthWatch will be set up as registered legal organisations.



To find out more about the lessons learned from the first 3 years of LINKs go to the website:

**[www.cfps.org.uk/news](http://www.cfps.org.uk/news)**

# HealthWatch England



The Care Quality Commission has made their plans for setting up HealthWatch England.



HealthWatch England will be part of the Care Quality Commission.



In November they will start to look for someone to be the chair of HealthWatch England. That person will start work in April 2012.



Early in 2012 there will be talks about who will be on the HealthWatch England committee.



The new system will build on what has already been done between CQC and LINKs.



The HealthWatch advisory group has 5 different groups to look at things we need to do to set up HealthWatch.

## How HealthWatch England will work



This group has looked at how HealthWatch England should be set up and what the new chair and director should be asked to do.

## Why we need Local HealthWatch



This group says it is important now to look at how Local HealthWatch works with:

- HealthWatch England
- the Care Quality Commission
- local councils who will buy services.





It is also important to listen to what the 75 Local HealthWatch pathfinders have to say.



Pathfinders are groups who will work out how to do things before more HealthWatch groups are set up.

## Making a good Local HealthWatch



This group has been looking at:

- important dates like November and December 2011 when local councils find out how much money they get from government.



They are also looking at March 2012, when local councils decide how they will spend that money



- pay and conditions of staff moving over to Local Healthwatch. This will be decided at local level



- pathfinder groups. These will help people think about issues like how Local HealthWatch groups should be set up and run. And also how to make sure a mix of people take part



- you can find out more about pathfinders on the Department of Health website:

**[www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)**



- each region now has a lead person to make sure the changeover to Local HealthWatch goes smoothly.

# Involving people and telling them about HealthWatch



An organisation called **Spencer du Bois** is helping this group with telling people about HealthWatch.



We are involving people through an online community. The community is made up of people who take part in a forum on the internet.



If you would like to join the community please email:

**[healthwatch@nunwood.com](mailto:healthwatch@nunwood.com)**



From June next year Local HealthWatch groups will be able to get a communications 'toolkit' to help them with their work locally.



This will include things like the new logo, and ideas for how to set out leaflets etc.



It could save local groups a lot of work. We hope all local HealthWatch groups will use the new logo and other materials to give a clear message to the public.



You can find out more at the next live web chat for the online community. This is on Tuesday October 25 from 10 – 11.30 in the morning.



Members of the HealthWatch team will be online to answer your questions. We hope you will be able to join us.

## Getting involved in HealthWatch



To find out more about what is happening with HealthWatch go to the Care Quality Commission website:



**[www.cqc.org.uk/](http://www.cqc.org.uk/)**



Don't forget you can have your say by joining the online community. Email:

**[healthwatch@nunwood.com](mailto:healthwatch@nunwood.com)**



And to find out more about planned changes to the NHS see:



**[healthandcare.dh.gov.uk](http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk)**



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