

HEALTHWATCH PETERBOROUGH AND HEALTHWATCH
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
HUNTINGDONSHIRE HEALTH AND CARE FORUM
ROLE AND FUNCTION

Role

The role of the Community Forum is to: -

- Offer a community perspective on the provision of health and social care services
- Consider the impact of service changes on people's experience and make recommendations to Healthwatch Board
- Contribute a wide range of views on the quality of local patient and public engagement
- Support and challenge Healthwatch management to respond effectively to local needs

Purpose and Function

- The primary purpose is to collate and inform Healthwatch Board of the community's view of health and care services in order to ensure that board members can use those views when they
 - Directly represent Healthwatch at key meetings
 - Advise on the best forms of engagement and support the engagement process.
- To provide a forum where opinions and reflections can be sought
- To provide direct representation of providers of local services and make individual contact and connections
 - To share information about services and proposed service changes and seek opinions
 - To provide a safe and open environment to raise issues and ask questions.
 - In this environment early thoughts can be tested and concerns can be shared to enable early resolution of potential issues

Structure of Meeting

- Bimonthly meetings with speakers who will be asked to focus on the provision of health and care services; the impact of changes on people's experience and the quality of engagement
Workshops to be held occasionally to provide a focus on specific aspects of care

Meetings to include on the agenda an item to hear updates from local Patient Participation Groups

- Reports from attendees who have represented Healthwatch will be presented for discussion
- Actions will be identified and agreed

Membership and chairing

The Forum comprises representatives of local health and care providers; members of the public; Healthwatch volunteers and Healthwatch directors and staff.

Appointment of Chair, and Vice Chair if required, will be agreed by the group and reviewed on an annual basis

Role of attendees

- Actively contribute to discussions and workshops
- Provide advice, support and challenge regarding the performance of health and care services; their impact and the effectiveness of engagement
- Take lead responsibility for relevant actions as appropriate