

News and Updates

June 2021

GP Data Sharing



There has been a lot of coverage in the news about NHS plans to share data held in GP records. The new data sharing system was due to start in July but has now been pushed back to 1 September.

If you DO NOT want your GP records to be shared, there are two ways to opt out:

1. Stop your GP record data being shared anonymously with other NHS services for planning and development. This would prevent your data being used in the anonymous information local NHS service commissioners and decision makers use to plan services. You will need to complete the form called Type 1 Opt Out form and return it to your GP practice before 1 September. You can download one at: [digital.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) or ask us for a copy if you are not online.
2. Agree to share your information with the NHS planners but NOT with external research organisations. You can do this [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk), via the NHS App or by calling 0300 303 5678.

Are you a patient or carer at one of the Brockwell, Lintonville or Wellway GP surgeries?



The Valens Medical Partnership Patient Participation Group (PPG) is looking for new members to help make services even better.

Being part of the PPG means understanding what patients and carers experience, having ideas and being involved in decisions about the range, shape and quality of services at the practices.

PPG members are volunteers and meet regularly (virtually at the moment). There is lots to do and it's an exciting time to get involved.

For an informal chat with Valens Patient Engagement Officer Pat Rigg, email: pat.rigg@nhs.net or call: 01670 844303.

End of Life Care Survey - share your thoughts and ideas

We are working with NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group to find out what is important to people living in Northumberland when thinking about end of life care.

This feedback will help with the development of an end of life strategy and an agreement between Northumberland residents and end of life care providers, such as doctors, nurses and carers.

To take part in this research please complete the online survey below by 5pm on Friday 25 June. As a thank you for taking part you will be entered into a prize draw to win a £100 Amazon voucher.

You can find the survey at this link bit.ly/EndofLifeCareSurvey, or call us and tell us your thoughts over the phone.



6 things you should expect from social care services

With more than a quarter of a million people living in care homes and a further 600,000 adults relying on social care support to live independently, it's vital that people are able to get the best out of social care.



The National Institute for Care Excellence has set out six key things you should expect from social care services:

1. You should be able to live your life with dignity and independence
2. Your care should be planned flexibly around what you want and need
3. You should understand what types of care are available, and the minimum care you can expect to have
4. You should have control over how your care is provided and paid for
5. The staff providing care should develop good relationships with you
6. Providers of social care should ask you and your family for your views, and use these to train staff and improve services

Latest Reports

Our **Feedback Report** for January to March 2021 gives a summary of the feedback collected from people who use health and social care.

Vaccination Report: Healthwatch England has looked at vaccination confidence among people from African, Bangladeshi, Caribbean and Pakistani backgrounds living in the UK.

Dental Services: Access to NHS dental care continues to be a problem for people across England, with Healthwatch recording a 22% rise in calls and complaints between January and March 2021. Healthwatch England's Dentistry Review found a lack of consistency across the country when it comes to getting a dental appointment.

All the reports can be found on our website or get in touch to ask for a copy in the post.

Get in Touch

We'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at one of the ways below.

Call: 03332 408468
Text: 07413 385275
Email: info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk
Website: healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk

Write to: FREEPOST Healthwatch Northumberland,
Adapt (NE), Burn Lane, Hexham,
Northumberland NE46 3HN

Social Media:



Northumberland County Blind Association wins National Award



Northumberland County Blind Association has been honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The award recognises the vital support the charity provided to the community in response to the pandemic by setting up a telephone befriending service. At the height of the pandemic over 600 visually impaired people were contacted.

Our own Healthwatch Northumberland staff team and volunteers were pleased to be involved in this project.