



# Join our board

## What is Healthwatch Northumberland?



Healthwatch Northumberland is here to make care better.



We listen to the views of local people.



We speak up for people who use health and social care services.



Sometimes it is difficult to know where to go to get the help you need.



We will help you find the right service to get the support you need that is right for you.



Healthwatch is an independent organisation.



There is a local Healthwatch in every area of England.



We share these views with professionals to improve services.



We encourage services to involve people in deciding how they should improve.



We do not charge for our information and advice.

## Who runs Healthwatch Northumberland?



Adapt North East is a community-based organisation that supports people with disabilities, mental health problems and people who are disadvantaged by living in a rural area.



Northumberland County Council pays Adapt North East to provide Healthwatch in Northumberland but does not tell us what to do.



The Adapt North East Board is legally responsible for Healthwatch Northumberland.

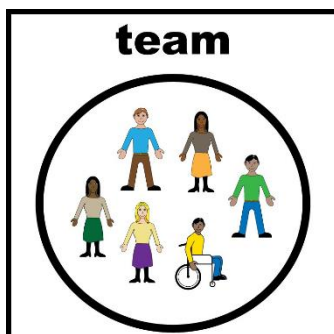


Healthwatch Northumberland Board members are not trustees or directors. They are not personally responsible for Healthwatch Northumberland.

## How does it work in practice?



Healthwatch Northumberland's day to day work is listening to local people's experiences of health and care services.



We have a team of six people based in Hexham. You can find out more about them at our website.



We are also a member of the Northumberland Health and Wellbeing Board.

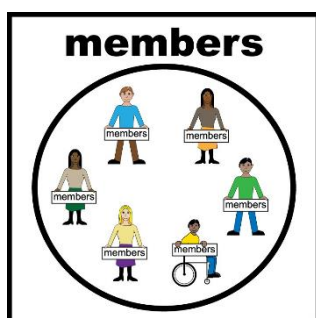


This is where key leaders from the local health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population

## What does the Healthwatch Northumberland Board do?



The board decides what issues Healthwatch Northumberland works on each year. The board agrees a plan for the staff and volunteers to carry out, and checks it is done.

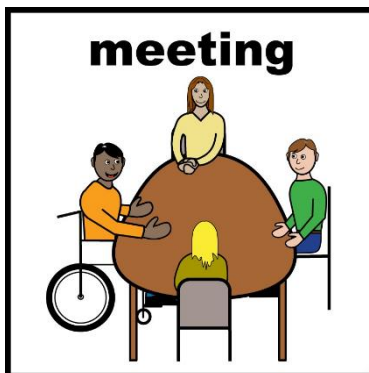


There are 15 board members. Some of these have been chosen for their knowledge, others represent organisations who work with patients and service users.

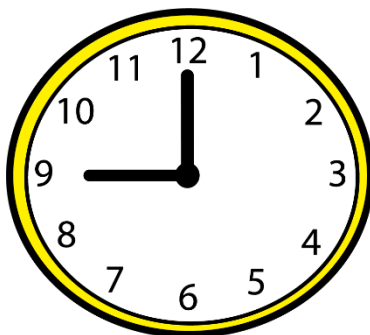


You can find out more about the role of the board in the Terms of Reference document. Please ask for more information.

## **What would I be expected to do?**



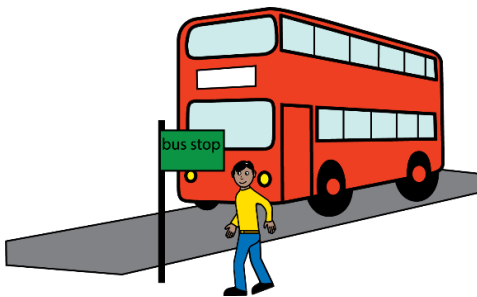
You would attend four board meetings and one review day every year.



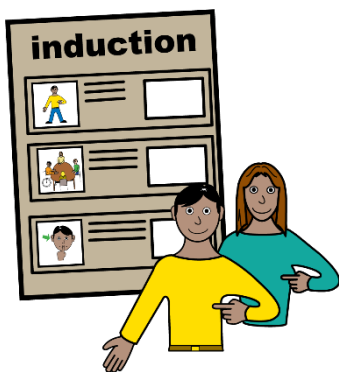
The meetings last about 2.5 hours and usually take place during the working day.



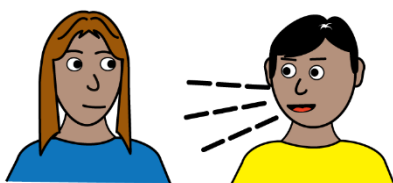
We try to meet at different locations around Northumberland or online using Zoom if needed.



Board members are unpaid volunteers but we will pay you for reasonable travel expenses.

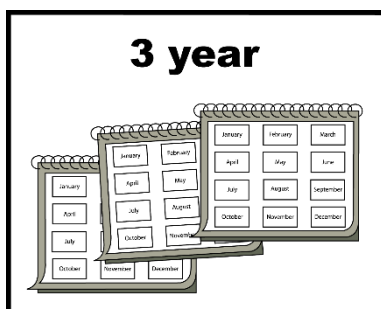


You would attend an induction session to learn more about the role.



You would be expected to do these things:

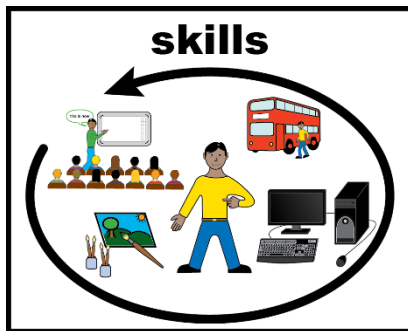
- Help decide the work Healthwatch Northumberland does and make sure it reflects what people in Northumberland think.
- To represent Healthwatch Northumberland at meetings.
- To be involved in issues and task groups.
- To reflect the views of patients, families and carers within Northumberland.
- To report back on any activity or meeting attended.
- To take part in training and development.



You can be a board member for three years. You can apply again for a further three years.



# What type of people are you looking for?



Healthwatch needs people from all communities and with different skills and experiences.



Board members will usually live in Northumberland.



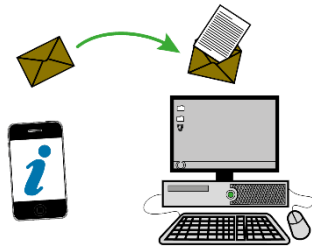
If you have a skill or knowledge to bring to our board, please apply and tell us about it.



This is what we are looking for in a board member:

- Awareness of current health and social care policy and issues, particularly for people with mental ill health, learning disabilities or people who aren't being listened to.
- Able to be genuine, positive and fair with people from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.
- Good communication skills.
- Able to use evidence from patients, service users and research to make practical judgements about complex problems.
- Experience or ability to set goals and monitor that these are achieved.
- Experience of working effectively in a decision-making group, board or committee.
- Committed to working in an impartial and independent way to improve health and social care services for service users, carers and the public.
- Able to treat people with respect, engage in debate and speak up with your views.

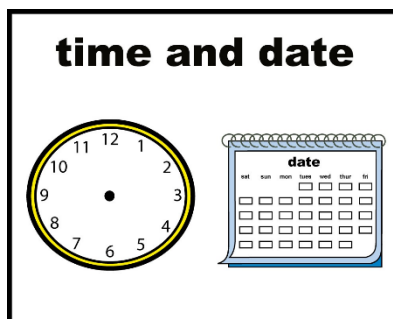
# How do I apply and what happens then?



Apply via Smart Survey using this link:  
[bit.ly/HWNBoardMemberApplication2024](https://bit.ly/HWNBoardMemberApplication2024)



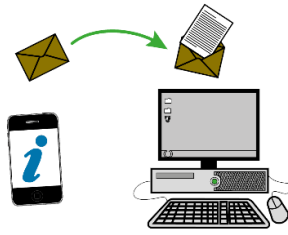
Fill in the application form using the list of skills we are looking for above to tell us about you and why you want to join us.



All applications must be received by 9am on 7 February 2024.

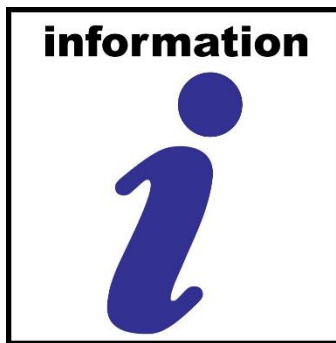


An interview-only assessment may be possible if a written application is not right for you.



We will contact you by email if you are invited to interview. Interviews will be held in February/March 2024.

## **Important information**



We won't be able to consider your application if:

- You have an unspent conviction for an offence involving deception or dishonesty.
- You are an un-discharged bankrupt.
- You have been removed from trusteeship of a charity by the Court or the Charity Commission for misconduct or mismanagement; and
- You are under a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.
- You have entered into a composition or arrangement with creditors which includes an individual voluntary arrangement and are currently on the Insolvency Service Register.

Please get in touch if you need more information.