

News and updates

April 2026



Have your say

Your experiences of NHS and social care services and your views on changes to services really can make a difference and help make improvements locally.

Please share your feedback by giving us a call (or text to arrange a callback), by visiting our website, or scan the QR codes below. Thank you.

Proposed updates to the Telecare Service in Northumberland



Northumberland County Council is proposing updates to the Telecare Service and would like to hear your views.

Telecare services use technology to help people live safely and independently at home, particularly those who are elderly, disabled, or vulnerable.

The proposed changes to the service include:

- Introducing service charges
- Ending the Mobile Warden Response Service in the former Blyth Valley area
- Delivering Telecare on a monitoring only basis county-wide
- Introducing an installation charge for equipment fitted by the Warden Team

To request a paper form please email: telecare.consult@northumberland.gov.uk

The consultation closes on Friday 17 April 2026.

What matters to you? Let us know in our Annual Survey 2026



There's still time to tell us what matters to you in local NHS and social care and help shape our work for the year ahead.

We'd like to know how satisfied you are with the NHS and social care services you've used over the past 12 months, in our short Annual Survey.

We would also like you to help us set our work priorities for the coming year - what would you like us to focus on?

This could be digital access to services, such as GP online bookings, urgent dental care, or travel for care, including Patient Transport Services.

Please take a few minutes to tell us your thoughts - this can be as a patient or carer. Your views will be shared anonymously.

The closing date has been extended to Tuesday 7 April.

The future of adult eating disorder services



Our local mental health trust, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, is looking at the way it provides care for adults with eating disorders.

The review of the services will include looking at how and where specialist inpatient adult eating disorder services are provided as well as community services.

Please leave your views by 30 April 2026.

Here to Hear drop-ins for April

We'd love to see you at one of our in-person events this month. We'll be at the venues below with lots of information about local services and our giveaways, so do call in to ask a question or share your experiences with us!

Blyth Community Hub: Wednesday 15 April, 10.00am–12.00pm

Hexham General Hospital: Thursday 16 April, 10.30am–12.30pm

Newbiggin Community Hub: Thursday 16 April, 10.00am–12.00pm

Merton Hall Ponteland: Monday 20 April, 10.00am–12.00pm

Morpeth Leisure Centre: Wednesday 22 April, 10.30am–12.30pm

Hexham Mart: Friday 24 April, 9.00am–1.00pm

Haltwhistle Community Hub: Wednesday 29 April, 10.30am–12.30pm

Lindisfarne Centre Alnwick: Thursday 30 April, 10.00am–12.00pm

Your feedback on NHS services

Last year, working with other local Healthwatch across the region, we asked for your views on three NHS services designed to help people access care more quickly and conveniently. These were:

- The NHS App
- GP extended access (out of hours appointments)
- The Pharmacy First Service

We now have the results that show that awareness of these services is still developing. Visit our website to read more or ask for a postal copy.

Spotlight on NECA

Is gambling negatively affecting you or someone close to you?



NECA, in partnership with GambleAware, provides a range of free gambling information, advice and support options for anyone affected by gambling harms. Confidential support is available over the phone or face-to-face across the North East and is confidential.

Call 0191 562 3309 or visit the NECA website.

Would you like to receive our newsletters by email?

Due to limited resources and the increasing of costs of postage, we will be reducing the number of times we produce this printed newsletter. We still hope to be able to send you a postal newsletter every other month from June 2026. If you have an email address, and would be happy to receive our updates in this way, please email us at: info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk with the subject heading 'Newsletter'. Thank you.

Get in touch

To unsubscribe from this newsletter or to contact us with feedback or a question, please get in touch.

Call: 03332 408468

Text: 07413 385275

Email: info@healthwatchnorthumberland.co.uk

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

Social Media:



Bowel Cancer Awareness month



April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month.

When diagnosed early, nine in ten people survive bowel cancer. Knowing the symptoms is important as the earlier it's found, the more treatable it's likely to be.

Learn how to spot the signs and symptoms and read about the importance of screening at the Bowel Cancer UK website, or call us for more details.

Online events

Please note there is no online information event this month.

We'll be back in May with local charity, Live Well with Cancer.

More details to follow.