

Healthwatch West Berkshire
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Healthwatch West Berkshire Community Engagement Programme Guidance Notes 2017

1 Introduction

Healthwatch West Berkshire is the local people's watchdog and champion for health and social care. We have developed our Community Engagement Programme to encourage local voluntary sector organisations to be involved in our work and share the values of Healthwatch, as well as reach the heart of what matters most to people about their health and social care services in the local area. We have a commitment to making everyone's voices heard, which means trying to reach vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups and those whose voices are seldom heard. With this in mind, we welcome funding applications for research projects where there is a focus on the views of local health and social care service users, so that the services in our community can be improved in line with the needs of its members.

2 The Application Process

The deadline for submitting your applications is 8th March 2017 at noon. If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to attend a face-to-face interview, which, depending on the size and scale of the project, may mean a formal presentation to members of the Healthwatch West Berkshire team and board.

3 Completing your application

Applications for research into the areas highlighted below will be given priority but we are always keen to hear about new health and social care issues that people think are important to investigate. If you are unsure, please contact Amelia Hamblin using the details at the bottom of the page for guidance.



4 Healthwatch West Berkshire Work Plan 2016-17 Priority Areas

- a. **Mental Health and Wellbeing**
Undertake enquiry into the state of mental health in West Berkshire.
- b. **Patient Transport and Discharge**
Who is responsible? Issues of communication/coordination between services?
- c. **Carers**
Are carers suffering health inequalities as part of their care? How effective are services at prioritising the health of carers, in line with the Care Act 2010?
- d. **Vulnerable Groups**
Keeping vulnerable groups at the forefront of research, and committing to making their voices heard.
- e. **Living Healthily**
Developing a strategy to improving health across West Berkshire, including feedback from specific communities about healthy living and researching ways in which services can maximise the efficacy of healthy living campaigns or provisions.
- f. **GPs/Primary Care**
- g. **West Berkshire Community Hospital (including Minor Injuries)**

