

Welcome to Healthwatch Cornwall's May 2013 newsletter.

“Putting you at the heart of health and social care”

This month, Healthwatch Cornwall, the consumer champion of health and social care in the county, has been concentrating on finalising the appointment of its volunteer Executive Board and shortlisting for the volunteer steering group interviews taking place in June.

You can find out more about what Healthwatch Cornwall is doing by visiting www.healthwatchcornwall.co.uk or joining in the conversations on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) too.

Healthwatch Cornwall gets out and about

In May, Healthwatch Cornwall attended a Dementia Action Day as part of Dementia Awareness Week. Organised by Home Instead, a number of agencies took part with Healthwatch Cornwall using a ‘memory box’ courtesy of the Royal Cornwall Museum to spark conversations. This helped a number of people and organisations to share their experiences. These will now be fed into Healthwatch Cornwall’s database to help it record detail around dementia.

Healthwatch Cornwall also joined its partner Young People Cornwall at a youth-led mental health conference, and met with the User Strategy Group, the Local Quality Surveillance Group, and Healthwatch England’s Regional Group. It also held talks with Phil Confue, Chief Executive of Cornwall Partnership Foundation Trust, representatives for safeguarding adults, local MPs and members of the Health and Wellbeing Board among others.

Next month on June 6 and 7 only, Healthwatch Cornwall will be taking part in the Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge. Come and say hello and discover how you can have your say and get more involved too.

Find us at stand 105, which is part of the Age UK Cornwall marquee - pick up a goodie bag while they last.

Visit the [events page](#) to find out full details of where else Healthwatch Cornwall will be in the county, or call **0800 0381 281** for more information.

To share your views or for information about health and social care services you can call Healthwatch Cornwall’s freephone advice line on **0800 0381 281***.
Get in touch to have your say.

*mobile networks may charge



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Healthwatch Cornwall in the media

Healthwatch Cornwall has been very busy in May promoting how it can help the people of Cornwall through its numerous media opportunities.

Along with various Tweets and comments on its lively Twitter and Facebook accounts, Healthwatch Cornwall is looking into creating a TwitterChat in future to start conversations around topics it is researching - follow us on Twitter [@HWCornwall](#) for more details.

Acting director Jayne Zito became a ‘guest editor’ on Radio Cornwall on May 7 and helped produce a lively and topical show with James Churchfield and the team.

Volunteers also provided their viewpoints on the challenges people caring for someone with dementia face in the county as part of the station’s Laurence Reed Show on May 22.

Partner Pentreath’s Healthwatch Cornwall Champion spoke with St Austell Bay Radio and chose the songs played during part of the broadcast, and Jayne chatted with Source FM too. If that wasn’t enough, Healthwatch Cornwall was showcased on Spotlight TV, interviewed by the Health Service Journal and featured in other agencies newsletters, magazines and online updates too.

Working with voluntary and community groups

Healthwatch Cornwall wants to work in partnership with established voluntary and community sector networks within the county.

These organisations have a vital role in addressing the needs of local people and can represent the ‘voice’ of the communities they serve.

Organisations that would like their voice to be represented by Healthwatch Cornwall can join via the [Members Sign Up](#) page or by calling **0800 0381 281**.

Healthwatch Cornwall will then contact the organisations to discuss future collaborative working opportunities and gain a better understanding of the work they do. This will help to develop further signposting information about local services. Contributions from community-based groups are essential in helping Healthwatch Cornwall influence the design and delivery of services, and reduce health inequalities.



Don’t forget, if you receive the newsletter by post but have access to an email address, please call **01872 243549** or contact us by **email** to update your details.

Every penny saved on postage can be put into research and community engagement and will help Healthwatch Cornwall bring about positive changes in the county’s health and social care services, where necessary.

Healthwatch England’s next public committee meeting will be taking place on June 12 in Gateshead.

You can submit a question to the committee members by emailing enquiries@healthwatch.co.uk or you may be able to watch the event online as it occurs.

Visit www.healthwatch.co.uk to find out more.

Healthwatch Cornwall attended a regional conference on May 20 and will be attending the national Healthwatch conference on June 20. Find out more next month.

www.healthwatchcornwall.co.uk