






Youthwatch Volunteer

Our Youthwatch volunteers help us to understand the experiences of young people who use local health and social care services. They listen to young people's opinions and undertake projects and support consultations on the health and social care services that are important to them. They also help us tell more young people about Healthwatch in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and what we do.

We want to make sure that young people across the area have equal access to health and social care services. Our Youthwatch volunteers help us listen to the experiences of more people, with a focus on reaching those who tend to be less likely to have their voices heard.

Main tasks:

With support and training from a member of our team of staff and volunteers

-  You will attend monthly, online Youthwatch meetings, and listen to other young people within your local community who have used health and social care services, helping us to identify what health issues are of concern to young people.
-  You will take part in projects that young people identify and support our objectives – researching what exists already, what is working well and what needs to be improved from a young person perspective.
-  You may take part in consultations about young people's services to help improve services for young people.
-  You may attend training and awareness sessions on subjects that are of interest to young people that help you gain a better understanding of other young people, their health conditions and how they affect their access to health services.
-  Help us to recruit other young volunteers and promote Youthwatch

by increasing awareness in your school/college or workplace and local community, sharing surveys and encouraging participation in the campaigns Youthwatch supports and organises.

Other activities you might like to take part in:

-  You might like to support the engagement team by working with us on an information stand, talking to people about Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and listening to people's experiences of health and social care.
-  You might like to give out Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough information in your area. This might involve putting up posters in agreed places, or handing out our postcards (or other materials) at local events.
-  You might like to visit local groups, chat with other people and record what they have to say about their care. This may involve giving a short presentation, if you feel confident doing this.
-  If you use local social media, you may help tell us about what young people are saying about their care

From time to time, we have other specific volunteer roles you may be interested in. We will talk to our volunteers about additional opportunities as they arise. Please be aware that these roles may require additional training, skills, and time commitment.

Skills and experience needed

You will need

- To feel comfortable talking to people
- To have good listening skills
- To be non-judgmental
- To be committed to promoting equality and diversity

When

This volunteering role is flexible, it will involve being available in the early evenings, as most of our online meetings take place from 5.30pm to 7pm. If you are under 18 years old, we will require parental consent. Please talk to us about how much time you can give and how this can work around your studies or your work.

Where

Our meetings are mostly online but some face-to-face socials and get-togethers may be arranged. We will work with you to agree your volunteering hours and make sure they fit in with your studies/work.

What support will we give you




We will provide an induction training session that will include:

- An introduction to Healthwatch
- An explanation of our policies and procedures such as Equality Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, etc.
- Developing your listening skills
- Additional training as needed

You will have ongoing support from our team and will meet regularly with Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough staff and other volunteers. Pre-agreed out of pocket expenses will be paid.

What you will get out of this volunteering role?

The opportunity to

-  Meet new people
-  Help improve care services for local people
-  Learn or improve skills that could be included in your CV and a steppingstone into employment or training opportunities. We can provide references for those completing a project or volunteering for three months or more

How to apply

Please complete a volunteer application form, telling us why you would like to be a Youthwatch volunteer with us.

An application form is available on our websites at [Volunteer application form | Healthwatch Cambridgeshire](#) or [Volunteer application form | Healthwatch Peterborough](#).

Any questions?

You can get in touch with our Volunteer Manager, Heather Lord, to have a chat about this role before you apply. Call her via our office number 0330 355 1285, mobile 0788 591 1147 or email

heather.lord@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Healthwatch Peterborough are managed jointly and work together as one organisation.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, The Maple
Centre, 6 Oak Tree Drive, Huntingdon, PE28 7HN

Call: 0330 355 1285 (local call number).