



Healthwatch Brent

Advisory Group





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About Healthwatch

Healthwatch Brent is one of 152 local Healthwatch organisations running across England since 2013. Its primary aim is to improve health and social care services for local people.

Healthwatch champions the rights of people who use health and social care services, and holds services to account for how well they engage with the public. Healthwatch supports patients, service users, carers and the public to be actively involved in how services are commissioned and delivered.

It makes sure people's views and experiences are listened to, so services improve and become more responsive to what people say they need. Healthwatch's remit covers all publicly funded health and social care services.



“When people who use services are involved in this way, services improve and the people involved gain confidence and skills.
Staff survey



Healthwatch Brent's Advisory Group

The Advisory Group is the key priority setting structure in Healthwatch Brent. It brings together the experience and expertise from the other parts of the governance structure to ensure Healthwatch Brent is effective, inclusive and transparent in its priority setting.



Aims of the group:

- › To ensure there is collective responsibility in setting the priorities and strategic direction of the organisation as set out in the Healthwatch Brent Workplan and Strategy.
- › To ensure the views of the Brent Grassroots Steering Group are heard in the prioritisation process
- › To ensure the views of the Independent Experts Network are heard in the prioritisation process.

Objectives:

- › Work in constructive partnership with the members of The Advocacy Project Board, Brent Grassroots Steering Group, Independent Experts Network, staff and volunteers
- › To have active oversight of the process for setting annual priorities for the organisation
- › Regularly review the list of priorities, receive updates on potential new more urgent priorities and advise how the list of priorities should be adjusted
- › Monitor the progress of project work and other activity on priorities, hold staff and volunteers to account if they are not progressing things effectively and that stakeholders are aware of any significant delays in project timeframes
- › Identify what difference a Healthwatch intervention has made and take a view on whether it is enough
- › Advise on utilising Enter & View effectively
- › Evaluate whether we are effectively balancing how we raise the voices of the public and challenge services to improve, with ensuring we work in a professional, collegiate, constructive manner with stakeholders
- › Consider whether Healthwatch Brent is suitably visible to public and stakeholders



Membership:

- › 1 trustee from **The Advocacy Project Group** (Chair of the Advisory Group)
- › 2 representatives of the **Brent Grassroots Steering Group**
- › 2 representatives from the **Independent Experts Network** (different people will be invited to attend as representatives of the network as required by the agenda).
- › 4 members of the public
- › 2 **Healthwatch Brent** volunteers
- › Healthwatch Manager

Although not members of the Advisory Group and therefore not able to participate in priority setting, senior officers of Brent Council, the CCG and Chairs of Committees such as Brent Health & Wellbeing Board and Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be invited to attend occasional meetings depending upon the agenda for the meeting.

The term of office is 2 years. The Group will meet quarterly for 2 hours. There will be occasional events that members need to attend.

Healthwatch Brent Governance Structure



Person specification for members of the public

Members of the public are key to the group to bring their views to help us decide on our priorities. They should have:

- › an interest in health, and health and social care services.
- › experience of working as part of a group, preferably within a strategic context.
- › sufficient time to commit to the role.
- › ability to grasp a range of information and evidence - which will be presented in as straightforward a way as possible with explanations available as required.
- › ability to display sound judgment and to be objective.
- › respecting of individual and organisational viewpoints.
- › awareness of, and commitment to, equality and diversity and reducing health inequalities.
- › understanding of the need for confidentiality when required.

Recruitment process for members of the public

- › Members are recruited through an open recruitment process by a panel of the Chair of the Advisory Group, Healthwatch Brent staff and existing Group members.
- › As vacancies arise we carry out further recruitment processes to fill the spaces.
- › We are particularly keen to hear from people who can bring the perspective from communities in Brent whose voices are seldom heard in health and care planning, and people who can contribute to our strong commitment to equalities and diversity.

Recruitment process for other members

- › Members who are providing representation from other groups such as the Grassroots Steering Group and The Advocacy Project Group, will be elected by their respective group.

Interested in being part of our Advisory Group?

Contact us for more information

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