



## Young people urged to speak out about health and care in Wiltshire

A young carer from Trowbridge, who has carried out more than 200 hours of volunteering, is urging his peers to get involved in a new scheme. 19-year-old Scott Kane, from Hilperton, has helped to look after his mum, who has cerebral palsy, since the age of three and has found volunteering has boosted his confidence.



Scott is now helping to promote **YouthWatch** - a new scheme launched by Healthwatch Wiltshire, which aims to help young people have a voice on the way health and care services are run in the county.

The Lackham College student was part of a group of ten 'Young Listeners' from Healthwatch Wiltshire and Community First who spoke to hundreds of their peers about their views and experiences with health and social care over the last year. Their findings went into a report which was shared with health officials who are making changes to the way services are run.

Scott said: "As young people we often feel that we don't have any authority when talking to a doctor, but through YouthWatch we can help give other children and young people that power."

YouthWatch will train young volunteers (aged from 14-25) to listen to the views of children and young people in the county to find out what they think about health and care services. They will then feed this information back to decision-making boards to shape health services in Wiltshire.

Volunteering has helped Scott develop new skills and boosted his confidence. He explained: "When I got to my teenage years I decided to get involved in volunteering to meet new people and help others. Due to looking after my mum from a young age it has made me more caring, more understanding and I'm able to value life for what it is. I've done over 200 hours of volunteering now and this makes me happy.

"I thrive on helping others and volunteering has helped to give not only me a voice but others too. Young people often don't get heard because of their age but through YouthWatch we can make a real impact on the way services are run locally. I would highly recommend others get involved and join YouthWatch, not only for their own benefit but to give something back to the wider community and have a real impact on the way services are run."

### Contact us:

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**YouthWatch**  
Speak out!  
**Wiltshire**

**Young people shaping health & care**

If you, your child, or someone you support or look after would be interested in joining the YouthWatch scheme, get in touch or visit [healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/youthwatch](http://healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/youthwatch) for more details.

Healthwatch Wiltshire is a local independent organisation which exists to speak up for people on health and care. If you have used a service recently then we would like to hear from you. We use what people tell us when we meet with the commissioners and providers of services to make sure that they take account of your views and experiences.