## Area Board Update September 2023



## Help us make a difference to health and care in Wiltshire

We are looking for new volunteers to help us listen to people's experiences of health and social care services in the county.

Whether you want to gain valuable work experience, help improve care in your community or learn new skills, there are lots of ways you can join us to make a real difference.

Around 20 volunteers currently offer their time to help us reach out to communities across Wiltshire. They are part of a network of more than 5,000 people who are involved with Healthwatch across England. The work at each local Healthwatch contributes to work at Healthwatch England in its mission to ensure that people are at the heart of care.

## Why volunteer with us?

- Make a difference to your community by giving people the chance to speak up about health and social care.
- Make new friends and get out and about across Wiltshire as part of the Healthwatch team.
- Develop new skills and confidence.
- Choose a role to suit you and do as much or as little as you like.

## What can I do as a volunteer?

- Our ambassadors visit groups and attend meetings and events to talk about us and collect feedback. They also help us with projects, carry out research and review documents.
- Our Enter and View Authorised
   Representatives visit services to see and hear first hand how they are run.

Young Healthwatch Wiltshire is also open to anyone aged 14-25 who wants to make a difference to their community and has an



interest in the rights and wellbeing of young people.

Our recruitment drive comes as we welcome our new Volunteering and Partnerships Lead, **Kate Barber**.

Kate said: "Our volunteers are our ambassadors and they are at the heart of everything we do. Without them it simply wouldn't be possible to reach out to people across Wiltshire.

"If you're thinking of volunteering, we'd love to hear from you. Whether you have an hour or two to spare or are looking to make a more regular commitment, we will be able to find a role to suit you."

Find out more about volunteering on our website at: healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/volunteer

If you're not able to volunteer, you can still make a difference by sharing your experiences of services with us. Fill in our form at: <a href="healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/have-your-say">healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/have-your-say</a> or call 01225 434218.