

Help make a difference in your community

Would you like to develop your skills, gain experience and give people the chance to speak up about their experiences?

Healthwatch Wiltshire is keen to hear from anyone interested in becoming a volunteer to support its work making health and care services meet the needs of local people.

Around 40 volunteers currently offer their time to us, and they are regularly out talking and listening to people in the community, finding out what is good and what could be improved about local health and social care services. They are often found at community events, but also visit the services themselves to speak to patients and gather their views.

Volunteers also give advice and information about the NHS and social care services to the public, as well as provide vital behind-the-scenes support in roles like admin work.

By helping people have their say about NHS and social care services, volunteers at Healthwatch Wiltshire donated more than 830 hours of their time last year.

And they are also part of a network of

more than 5,000 people who are involved with Healthwatch across the country.

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.

Healthwatch Wiltshire Volunteer and Partnerships Lead Jo Woodsford 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 so many people across Wiltshire. They each make their own unique contribution so I'd like to say a big thank you to each and every one of them for bringing their skills, experience and dedication to supporting us.

"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."

To find out more, visit

www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/volunteer



Why volunteer with us?

A nurse and former hospice CEO, Sarah joined us because she wants to make sure people who use health and social care services have a voice.

"You will meet a wide range of interesting people, you will be well supported by the staff and you will have a choice about what, where and when you volunteer," she says.

Photo: Siobhan Boyle