



## Update for Area Boards

### Unpaid carers in Wiltshire - help in a crisis

Healthwatch Wiltshire (HWW) was asked to carry out an independent engagement project by Wiltshire Council to find out what support services unpaid carers would like in place to prevent a breakdown in their caring role in a crisis.

Given the new duties of the Care Act it is important that the services on offer are meeting the needs of carers and that carers are consulted and their views and experiences reflected back to Wiltshire Council. The engagement project ran between April and June 2015. Focus groups were held around the county giving carers the opportunity to share their experiences of the caring role and answer specific questions designed to facilitate discussion. Following the focus groups HWW looked at what carers told us and developed an online survey which included some of the key messages and outcomes from the workshops. We brought all of the information together and wrote a report called 'Unpaid carers in Wiltshire: help in a crisis'. The full report is available from [www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/sites/default/files/carers\\_in\\_wiltshire.pdf](http://www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/sites/default/files/carers_in_wiltshire.pdf). This report will be shared with Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire's Clinical Commissioning group to inform their future commissioning plans to ensure that the right services are in place to meet the needs of carers.

### HWW is recruiting new board members

HWW has an exciting opportunity for new members to join our Board of Directors and welcome interest from all sections of the community. This is a great opportunity to join an organisation which is really making a difference to health and social care in Wiltshire, therefore we need people to join our board who are passionate about involving local people in health and care. Board Members are Non-Executive Directors of HWW under the Companies Act 2006. They set the strategy for HWW and oversee the operational management of the organisation by the Chief Executive.

Board Members must be willing to spend a minimum of 2 days a month on Board matters. With the exception of the Chair, Board Members are voluntary positions. However, all out of pocket expenses are covered by HWW. The term of office will be for an initial period of 3 years, with an option to extend by a further year. We welcome interest from all sections of the community. If you would like further information or are interested in applying please contact us or visit <http://www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/healthwatch-wiltshire-vacancies>

### HWW Annual Report

The second annual report from HWW has now been released. The report includes information on activities over the past year as well as information about statutory powers, and how HWW engaged with the people of Wiltshire. The report is available here [http://www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/sites/default/files/healthwatch\\_wiltshire\\_annual\\_report\\_2014\\_15.pdf](http://www.healthwatchwiltshire.co.uk/sites/default/files/healthwatch_wiltshire_annual_report_2014_15.pdf)

### Independent Evaluation of HWW

Contact us:

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An independent evaluation of HWW is currently underway to try to understand what we do well and where we can do better. Individuals can talk freely and anonymously, if you feel you can contribute please contact Sandie Lewis who is conducting the evaluation, email [sandielewis@live.co.uk](mailto:sandielewis@live.co.uk) or phone 07764 576106.

If you are part of a group that would like to participate in the evaluation, Sandie can arrange to meet with you. She is contacting key partners, but welcomes contributions from anyone. HWW will let you know the outcome of the evaluation late Autumn 2015.