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(1) YOUR HEALTHWATCH

A) Healthwatch Brighton & Hove is recruiting a Chief Officer



healthwatch
Brighton and Hove

We're recruiting

Do you want to make a difference to health and social care in Brighton?
We're looking for a new Chief Officer to lead our team

Find out more at
www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk/work-with-us

Do you want to work for a dynamic, creative, fast-paced not for profit organisation that speaks up for people and communities and impacting Health and Care services in Brighton and Hove? If the answer is 'yes', Healthwatch has the ideal post for you.

The Role

We are recruiting for a new Chief Officer to join an organisation that enjoys a strong local and national reputation with secure contracts, stable finances and excellent future prospects. We are recruiting now to allow for a handover period, but the start date for this role is negotiable.

The position is permanent, up to 35hrs per week but flexible working is available. The role is home-based/hybrid, with a hot desk/office in central Brighton, and occasional meetings in various locations across Sussex. [Read more here](#)

How to apply

Application is by CV with a covering letter addressing the [Job Description and Person Specification](#) describing how you would lead Healthwatch Brighton and Hove over the next 3-5 years.

Completed applications to be sent to apply-ceo@hwbh.co.uk with the subject 'confidential, CEO job application'.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on the **Saturday 24/09/2022**.

Interviews are due to be held during the week commencing **Monday 03/10/2022**.

B) PRESS RELEASE: Royal Sussex County Hospital A&E downgraded by regulators (28.7.2022)

Following an unannounced inspection in April 2022, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have downgraded the Royal Sussex County Hospital Accident & Emergency Department from "Good" to "Required Improvement".



“ David Liley, Chief Executive of Healthwatch Brighton and Hove, said:

“Healthwatch raised concerns with CQC after patients and hospital staff told us the A&E in Brighton and Hove was busy, crowded and sometimes felt unsafe. We are pleased that the recent CQC inspection found some improvements, but A&E, Maternity and Surgery are all now rated as 'Inadequate' or 'Requires Improvement. This is a disappointing development for local people and staff, overworked and exhausted from their great efforts over the COVID period.”

”

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove's CEO David Liley was interviewed by BBC South East television and BBC Sussex radio stations about the CQC report. Louise Ansari, the National Director of Healthwatch England, praised David's interview.

We also invited Rob Haigh, Chief Medical Officer and Nicole Chavaudra, Director for Patient Experience from University Hospitals Sussex, to our August Board meeting to discuss the recent CQC visit and report. At the meeting were Brighton and Hove news and you can read their [article about the meeting here](#). We will publish minutes from our Board meeting soon.

Read our news article on our website [here](#) and read the CQC report [here](#)

Last week, the CQC halted operations in gastro intestinal cancer surgery after an unannounced inspection. The suspension of surgery at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, in Brighton, is understood to have meant that operations were cancelled for two patients

with cancer. They are expected to have their operations elsewhere. You can read more [here](#)



CQC network director Deanna Westwood said:

“Following an inspection on Thursday 11 August, the CQC has today taken urgent action to suspend the activity of the upper gastro-intestinal surgery service at the Royal Sussex County Hospital site part of University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust.

“We took this action because we believe if we didn’t, patients using the service may be exposed to the risk of unnecessary harm.

“University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust has the right to appeal and further information will be published by the CQC when we are able to do so.”



The trust’s chief operating officer Andy Heeps emailed staff. Dr Heeps said:

“We are already working with our NHS partners to ensure that our patients can be accommodated at alternative sites - that is of the utmost importance - and we will also be talking directly with those patients to ensure they are aware of what is happening and supported.

“We are also talking with those colleagues who are most immediately affected by this news and we will continue to do so as we seek to work through this together.

“We will also keep all of you informed as our discussions with the CQC and colleagues progress and we know more about how we can move forward.”



Geoffrey Bowden, Chair of Healthwatch Brighton and Hove said:

“Healthwatch’s primary concern is that patients affected are supported by the trust while an alternative site for their surgery is arranged and that robust plans to address inspectors’ concerns that patients using the service could be exposed to the risk of unnecessary harm are put in place.

“Healthwatch will be on standby to support the trust implement measures to allow upper gastro-intestinal surgery to resume at the County Hospital site as soon as possible.”

C) Long Covid: How is your feedback making care better?



The NHS has announced a new plan and more money to improve support for Long Covid. Find out how the experiences you shared helped make the difference.

Last week, NHS England [published a plan](#) for how services will better support people with Long Covid. They also committed a further £90m in care for people after they have had Covid.

Healthwatch England analysed the stories people had shared with the Healthwatch network about Long Covid throughout the pandemic; although small in number, they told a powerful story.

In this article, Healthwatch England looked at the [concerns people with Long Covid have told us](#) about their care and how the NHS is acting to address them.

I have found, since having Covid, that the support is simply not there. Physically or financially....My GP surgery have consistently told me they don't know what to do for me, which I understand, but you do tend to feel like you're on your own with this.

– Story shared with Healthwatch South Gloucestershire.

Read our full article [here](#)

D) Healthwatch Sussex are asking people to share with us their experiences of Long COVID

Tell us about your experience of Long COVID in Sussex

If you have experienced ongoing symptoms because of COVID-19, please complete our short survey and tell us:

- What the impact of Long COVID has been on you?
- Whether health and care services met your needs?
- How you feel support could be improved?

healthwatch
in Sussex



Healthwatch is keen to hear people's recent experiences of Long COVID, including any symptoms they have and any support services they have used, including the Post-COVID Assessment and Support Service (PCASS).

Approximately, 550,000 people in Sussex have contracted coronavirus (COVID-19) since the pandemic began.

Long COVID is a term to describe the effects of COVID-19 that continue for weeks or months beyond the initial illness.

Healthwatch is keen to hear people's recent experiences of Long COVID, including any symptoms they have and any support services they have used, including the Post-COVID Assessment and Support Service (PCASS).

If you have experienced ongoing symptoms of COVID-19 for **more than 4 weeks** (for examples [click here](#)), please complete our survey and tell us:

- What the impact of Long COVID has been on you?
- Whether health and care services are meeting your needs?
- How you feel support for those with Long COVID could be improved?

We want to learn more about the impact of Long COVID on day-to-day lives, and your preferences for any additional support.

Healthwatch will share the findings with decision-makers, commissioners and service providers to help inform delivery of health and care services in Sussex.

Complete our Long COVID survey

People can complete our survey in the following ways:

Online: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HWiSLongCovid2022>

By phone: 0333 101 4007 (lines open Mon-Fri 10am-2pm)

A copy of our survey can be [downloaded here](#) and returned to us via the address below:

By Post: Freepost RTTT-BYBX-KCEY, Healthwatch East Sussex, Greencoat House, 32 St Leonards Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 3UT

We can also set up telephone interviews to support completion of the survey by request.

The **deadline** for completions is midnight on **Sunday 18th September**.

F) Survey: Have you completed the Bowel FIT test?

Healthwatch West Sussex are trying to learn what stops people completing the Bowel faecal immunochemical (FIT) test. Please support them by completing their quick survey.



The NHS bowel screening checks is available to everyone aged 60 to 74 years. The programme is expanding to make it available to everyone aged 50 to 59 years. This is happening gradually over 4 years and started in April 2021.

The home test kit, is called a faecal immunochemical test (FIT), to collect a small sample of poo and send it to a lab. This is checked for tiny amounts of blood. Blood can be a sign of polyps or early indication of bowel cancer. Polyps are growths in the bowel. They are not cancer but may turn into cancer over time.

If the test finds anything unusual, you might be asked to go to hospital to have further tests.

Healthwatch West Sussex are trying to learn what stops people completing the Bowel FIT test.

Complete the survey [here](#)

Carry on reading for health and social care updates!

(2) HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE UPDATES

A) ACTIVE FOREVER 2022



Wednesday 21 Sept 10AM - 2PM at The King Alfred Leisure Centre

The city's Healthy Lifestyles Team and Freedom Leisure are working together again to produce their popular FREE Active Forever event.

Leading an active lifestyle is for people of all ages. Whether it's dancing or playing team sports these can be done at any age.

If you have always fancied playing table tennis, wanted to try walking netball/cricket or don't know what boccia is, this is the event for you. Did you know that singing, Zumba and Yoga are all good for your health? Pop in and find out! The event is also a great opportunity to meet others and maybe make new friends.

Drop in to try a range of taster sessions and visit their marketplace to chat to a range of local health, wellbeing, and activity providers. FREE refreshments will be served.

A warm welcome is guaranteed. Please arrive 15 minutes early for registration and to meet their friendly staff and come away with a smile.

For event Information please call 01273 294589

B) Opportunity to share your experience of audiology services in Sussex

Sussex NHS is reviewing the current support available to the Sussex population around audiology services and would appreciate feedback from those who have used Audiology services to help shape and improve the service in the future.



You can get involved and share your experience by taking part in a survey which will take 10-15 minutes to complete. [Take the survey here](#).

Read the full article [here](#)

C) NHSE leak reveals 1m patients on hidden waiting list

- Leaked data reveals more than 1 million people on waiting lists for community services
- One in four services (more than 500) still not fully restored since pandemic
- Concerns raised in NHSE over community and mental health neglect
- Discrepancy with elective recovery branded “immoral”

More than a million people - including hundreds of thousands of children - are on an unpublished national waiting list for community health services, according to NHS England documents leaked to *HSJ*. They reveal that just over 75,000 children are waiting to access community paediatric services, including children needing help with

developmental delay, long-term health conditions and additional needs; and there is a backlog of more than 74,300 young people for speech and language therapy.

More than 321,000 adults are on the list waiting for musculoskeletal services, mostly physiotherapy such as for back and joint pain; while 120,000 are waiting for podiatry.

The overall community waiting list for England has increased by 35 per cent since it was first reported in August 2021, to 1.04 million, of whom nearly 300,000 are children. The elective RTT list – while larger, at around 6 million – has grown more slowly, up 15 per cent over the same period. Before August last year, no community waiting lists were reported.

HSJ understands the lack of national support for long waits for most community and mental health care - in contrast to billions of government funding and a major recovery programme for elective consultant-led treatment - has been raised at a senior level in NHS England in recent weeks. One senior leader told *HSJ* the discrepancy was “immoral”.

The “community health services sitrep” analysis, which is the most recent NHSE has carried out, covers up to May this year. It shows:

- Waits for services with the largest post-covid backlogs span up to 120 weeks - more than two years - and most patients are waiting more than three months for these hardest-hit services;
- Nearly one in four community health services (24 per cent) are yet to be fully restored, having been paused in spring 2020 due to the pandemic. That contrasts with acute elective care, where activity has finally returned to pre-covid levels in most areas in recent months. Overall, 514 community services are still not fully restored; and
- Thirty-seven per cent of children’s speech and language therapy services are operating at reduced activity levels compared to pre-covid, as are 70 per cent of audiology and 63 per cent of musculoskeletal.

D) Better care for patients: Improving access to housing for people with mental health needs



New ways of working are changing the lives of people needing mental health support in Sussex. The NHS, social care, housing and community groups have been working together to improve the way people who are due to leave mental health hospitals, can access housing and support.

The new mental health initiative provides supported housing services for people who are ready to leave hospital but need ongoing assessment and support.

Joe, who has Bi-Polar Affective Disorder, experienced a relapse after losing a close family member and needed hospital treatment. A ‘trial’ placement in supported housing was arranged for him, which led to his move to independent accommodation. Joe said:



“When admitted to hospital I was uncertain about my future and anxious about becoming homeless. I got help to look for different types of accommodation and with essential items and other things I needed from local charities. I’m really optimistic about my future. I have good, stable accommodation and a package of support. I now really want to help others who are going through what I did.”



[Read more](#) about the positive impact this type of joined up partnership working is having on local people looking to live well with their mental health conditions.

E) Sexual health vending machine

University Hospitals Sussex would like to raise awareness of their new vending machines that have been installed across the city that distribute free HIV and STI testing kits. The HIV kits give a result in 15 minutes via a mouth swab and the STI kits are for individuals to swab themselves and post back to the laboratory.

HIV and STIs are still very prominent within Brighton and Hove but with early access to testing and therefore treatment, HIV is considered a chronic liveable condition and many STIs can be treated with just a short course of antibiotics. They want to get to zero new HIV infections, zero preventable deaths and zero stigma by 2030.

Advantages of the machines to deliver an integrated sexual health service:

- Confidential
- Free
- Easy and user-friendly
- Instant access
- Don’t require an address to receive a kit in the post

The machines are located at:

- Jubilee Library
- Brighton Sauna
- BMECP Centre
- Portland Road (near Kamson Pharmacy)
- The Wellsbourne Centre GP surgery

University Hospitals Sussex are also currently running an evaluation of the machines - there is a survey link that gets sent out with the test code where those who fill it out will receive a £10 high street voucher! There is also the option for a short interview where participants will receive a further £20 voucher (so total £30 for 35 mins of time!).

Carry on reading for COVID updates!

3.COVID NEWS

A) Share your views about the Autumn vaccination booster



As you may know, the COVID-19 vaccination programme for autumn 2022 will start shortly. Those delivering this are keen to hear from people, who are eligible, if they are planning to have their vaccination and to understand what support people may need in order to take up the vaccination.

Please [share your views by completing their short survey](#) which will them to plan COVID-19 vaccination delivery over the next few months. The survey will close on 30 September 2022.

You can still get your first and second vaccinations by heading to a walk in session, with details of these available by [clicking here](#)



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[Have Your Say](#)

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