

# Advisory Group Information Pack – September 2025



# Healthwatch North Northamptonshire: Advisory Group

## Terms of Reference

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### 1. Introduction: About Healthwatch North Northamptonshire

**Healthwatch North Northamptonshire** is the **independent champion for local people**, playing a crucial role in ensuring **health and social care services meet community needs**. As a new service, Healthwatch North Northamptonshire is dedicated to the North Northamptonshire area only. This specific focus allows the service to develop a deep understanding of the **unique character and needs of residents** at our local footprint.

#### Function and Vision

Healthwatch North Northamptonshire **empowers individuals and communities to share their experiences**, thereby **influencing improvements in health and social care services** across the area.

Our work is guided by core values including:

- **Independence,**
- **Consistency,**
- **Relationships & Trust,**
- **Impact,**
- **and being Outcomes Focused.**

The Healthwatch North Northamptonshire Advisory Group will work closely with key stakeholders from the local **Integrated Care Partnership**, including **Local Authority representation, Integrated Care Board (ICB) cluster boards, and Population and Public Health teams in North Northamptonshire**, serving the future vision for evidence-based **Outcomes Focused** and **Impactful** community engagement and co-production for the area.

### 2. Purpose of the Advisory Group

The Advisory Group will provide **informed advice and perspective** to the Healthwatch North Northamptonshire Officers, ensuring our priorities and workplan are grounded in community needs and effectively address health and social care inequalities within North Northamptonshire. The group will act as a **critical sounding board**, leveraging members' experience to **strengthen Healthwatch's advocacy and research** efforts.

### 3. Key Responsibilities of the Advisory Group

The Advisory Group's responsibilities will include:

- **Advising on Strategic Priorities:** Offering insight into the development and review of the annual work plan and strategic priorities, ensuring alignment with local needs.
- **Community Insight:** Ensuring Healthwatch's **research programme** effectively identifies key issues and addresses the needs of "**seldom-heard voices**".

- **Review and Input:** Providing feedback on reports, findings, and recommendations before presentation to commissioners, providers, and the public.
- **Championing Co-production:** Advocating for the implementation of co-production principles, ensuring **community voices** are central to service improvement.
- **Upholding Values:** Helping to uphold Healthwatch's **independence and impartiality**, ensuring its focus remains on championing the public's agenda.

#### 4. Membership and Term

- **Membership:** Comprised of volunteer members with relevant experience and a commitment to improving health and social care in North Northamptonshire.
- **Term:** The current term for Advisory Group members is fixed until the **end of March 2025**.

#### 5. Meetings and Commitment

- **Time Commitment:** Advisory Group members are expected to commit approximately **one day bi-monthly** for meetings and preparation.
- **Location:** Meetings will be face-to-face in **Wellingborough**.

## Healthwatch North Northamptonshire: Advisory Group Member Job Description

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Role Title: **Advisory Group Member, Healthwatch North Northamptonshire**

Reports To: **Chair, Healthwatch North Northamptonshire Advisory Group** (currently vacant), and under the Governance of Support Northamptonshire's Interim Healthwatch Sub-committee.

Location: Wellingborough (face-to-face meetings)

Term: Fixed until 31st March 2027

Time Commitment: Approximately 1 day bi-monthly (for meetings and preparation)

### Purpose of the Role

To provide advice, support, and community perspective to the Healthwatch North Northamptonshire Officers, helping to ensure that Healthwatch's work is impactful, evidence-based, and effectively represents the voice of North Northamptonshire residents in shaping health and social care services.

### Key Advisory Responsibilities

- **Strategic Input:** Contribute to strategic discussions and the decision-making process of the Advisory Group by providing informed community and expert perspective.
- **Review and Analysis:** Review draft reports, research findings, and recommendations, offering critical thinking to ensure they are **evidence-based** and identify key issues, particularly those affecting "**seldom-heard**" and under-represented groups.
- **Representation:** Act as a champion for the principles and values of Healthwatch North Northamptonshire: **Independence, Consistency, Relationships, Trust, Impact, and Outcomes Focused**.
- **Engagement Insight:** Advise on effective strategies for community engagement, ensuring that insights from the public are appropriately leveraged to influence decision-making.

### Essential Skills & Experience

- **Commitment to Health & Social Care:** A strong understanding of, and commitment to, improving health and social care services in North Northamptonshire.
- **Analytical & Critical Thinking:** Ability to review complex information and contribute to the formulation of evidence-based advice and recommendations.
- **Communication:** Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, capable of working collaboratively.
- **Values Alignment:** Demonstrable commitment to the values of Healthwatch North Northamptonshire.

## Desired Attributes

- Experience in the voluntary, community, or public sector, ideally within health or social care.
  - Familiarity with the health and social care landscape in North Northamptonshire.
  - Experience in advocating for community needs and influencing policy or service delivery.
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## Expression of Interest

If you are interested in this opportunity, you are invited to an **informal meet and greet session** at the Victoria Centre in Wellingborough on Monday, 13th October at 1pm. This will be a chance to learn more about the role and Healthwatch North Northamptonshire's vision.

Please submit an Expression of Interest in a maximum of 500 words FAO of our Healthwatch Services Manager, Claire Neilson by **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 5pm.**

Please also contact Claire if you have any further questions and if you are planning to attend the meet and greet session.

**[Claire.neilson@healthwatchnn.org.uk](mailto:Claire.neilson@healthwatchnn.org.uk)**



# healthwatch

## North Northamptonshire

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