

Healthwatch Rochdale Board Recruitment - FAQ

Healthwatch Rochdale is the independent consumer champion for children, young people and adults who use health and social care services in the borough.

- We work to ensure consumer's views about services are represented both locally and nationally;
- We focus on local voices being able to influence the delivery and design of local services;
- We have statutory powers that enable local people to influence health and social Care services under the Health and Social Care Act 2012

Healthwatch Rochdale discovers what people want from their health and social care services such as hospitals, GPs, care homes and pharmacies. This is referenced against information gathered from health and social care providers, commissioners as well as national and local research sources. Healthwatch Rochdale also produce reports about services visited and make recommendations for action where there are areas for improvement.

Q. What is the Healthwatch Board?

A. The Board is the group of people who are responsible for making sure that Healthwatch is run properly. It is also responsible for making sure we are representative of local people and our work is based on information from local people.

Q. What does the Board do?

A. The Board does two main things:

- Makes sure that Healthwatch meets its legal obligations - we have to operate in line with company law as well as use or legal powers in the best interests of local people;
- Agrees how we will set our priorities in the light of what it is being paid to deliver. The staff team is responsible for our day to day work but the Board advised by its Chief Officer is responsible for agreeing the overall work areas and the policies and procedures the staff team will follow.

Q. What do Board members need to know?

A. The Board needs a mixture of knowledge and skills. Some Board members will have expertise in running an organisation, some will have a good knowledge of health and social care services, some have particular organisational skills or experience and some will have on the ground experience of local communities. We expect every Board member to have something to contribute to one or more of these areas but we recognise that a

range of backgrounds and experiences is valuable - it helps the Board to make balanced, well informed decisions.

Q. What is expected from Board members?

A. We expect Board members to be committed to good quality health and care services for people in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale. In addition to this, there are some specific expectations:

- Attendance and participation in Board meetings - approximately once every quarter.
- Preparation for Board meetings - reading the papers before the meeting and asking for more information if they need it.
- Participation in Board training and development activities.
- Acting as an ambassador for Healthwatch - including respecting and representing the Board's agreed position on a range of topics.
- Always acting selflessly, in the best interests of Healthwatch, in line with standards of accountability in public life.

Q. How will Board members be supported?

A. New Board members will be offered an induction programme which helps them to understand what Healthwatch is expected to do and what their role is.

The Healthwatch staff team is also available to support Board members, especially those who are new to their role.

Healthwatch staff will provide detailed papers and information about topics for Board members.

Q. Who can be appointed to the Board?

A. Broadly speaking, board membership is open to individual people who meet the following requirements:

- They live, work or access health or care services in Rochdale Borough, or bring particular knowledge or expertise appropriate to the work of the Board.
- They meet the legal requirements to be a company director (including being aged 18 or over).

Q. How long will a Board member serve?

- A. A board member can serve for a maximum of 5 years, further information can be found in Healthwatch Rochdale's governance policy which can be provided upon request.
- Q. Who pays for Healthwatch?**
- A. The funding comes under contract from Rochdale Council as a commissioned service.