



Volunteer E-bulletin



It's the final countdown...

May 2026

Healthwatch Rochdale is in it's final year of business - and we want people to know we are still here to listen to their feedback.

After 13 years of championing local voices, Healthwatch Rochdale is now entering its final year. Since 2013, we have listened to the experiences of local people, carried out Enter and View visits, worked alongside partners and community groups, and engaged with young people through our Youthwatch project.

Together, this work has helped influence positive change in health and social care services across Rochdale.

As we begin this final chapter, we want people to know that we are still here to listen to their feedback and make sure their voice is heard.

We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers for their dedication, passion, and hard work over the years. Your support has made a real difference to our community. We look forward to continuing our journey with you until the very end.

This months feedback highlight is on:

GP Practices

To help us with our Patient Participation Group work, we are asking Rochdale residents to share their experiences with us about their GP Practice.

- How easy is it to make an appointment?
- Have you used the NHS app or your GP Practice website?
- Experiences with repeat prescriptions and medication reviews.
- Has your GP used an AI tool during your appointment?
- What stands out about your GP Practice...Tell us today!

Share feedback on behalf of friends and family with us
info@healthwatchrochdale.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for our Volunteering Christmas event - book it in NOW!
"Tinsel, Turkey, Thanks and Ta-ra".

 **Thursday**
10th December  **12:30pm-3:00pm**

 **The Baum**
Rochdale  **FREE**

We can also reimburse your public transport costs or fuel/car parking. Keep receipts.



Areas of work - May

Over the next 2 months the team will be on the ground engaging with local communities via our Information, Advice and Signposting stands, engaging with local Patient Participation Groups (PPG's) and carrying out our first Enter and View of this financial year.

We are gathering feedback on all areas of health and social care and welcome invitations to settings to hear residents voices.

Healthwatch England has just released their Annual Report and you can find it on our website here:

<https://healthwatchrochdale.org.uk/report/2026-04-09/speaking-better-care-healthwatch-englands-annual-report-202425>

We will be collating our local annual report over the next month ready for release in June 2026.

We are looking to update areas of our website, to offer more information, advice and signposting alongside an area dedicated to PPGs and GP practices to encourage Rochdale residents to continue to use their voice, to have their say on what matters to them.

YOU ARE ALL INVITED via the community safety team to the "International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia" flag raising at Rochdale Town Hall at 10am on Friday 15th May, and then on to Number One Riverside for cake and coffee afterwards.

Finally, a massive THANK YOU!

The hours of volunteer support as always is amazing, thank you for giving your free time to us as an organisation, we couldn't do what we do without your ongoing support, dedication and flexibility.



"Volunteers are at the heart of all we do!"

HWR Social Media

Did you know we have accounts across a wide range of online media.

Please like, follow or share.



@HWRochdale



www.healthwatchrochdale.org.uk

Dates for the Diary 2026



Dates of interest and dates we are out and about across the Rochdale Borough. Please come and say "Hi" if you are passing.

Awareness Days

- 04 - 10 May - Deaf Awareness Week
- 04 - 10 May - Maternal Mental health Week
- 05.05.26 - International Day of the Midwife
- 28.05.26 - Blood Cancer Awareness Day

MAY

- 04.05.26 - **CLOSED** - Bank Holiday
- 13.05.26 - Advisory Group Meeting online, 1:00pm
- 15.05.26 - IAS - Heywood Library, 10:00am - 4pm
- 15.05.26 - IDAHOBIT Flag Raising Rochdale Town Hall, 10:00am
- 19.05.26 - Board Sub-committee Meeting online, 4:30pm
- 25.05.26 - **CLOSED** - Bank Holiday
- 26.05.26 - IAS - Number One Riverside, 10:00am - 4:30pm



 **Next Volunteer Bulletin out end of May**