**Healthwatch [Insert your local Healthwatch name] shortlisted for national award(s)**

News – xx August 2019

**After reviewing almost 150 entries, we are pleased to announce all of the finalists for the Healthwatch Network Awards 2019.**

Healthwatch [insert name] has been nominated for an award for in [use summary and delete as appropriate]

Insert brief summary of your project. Mention the issue, the action you took and the impact of the work]

Every year, the awards celebrate positive stories of how local Healthwatch are helping to make care better for thousands of people. The Healthwatch Network Awards are an opportunity to demonstrate where local Healthwatch have gone above and beyond, to make sure health and social care services meet everybody's needs.

Healthwatch across the country listen to what people like about the NHS and social care and what could be changed. They share these views with professionals, so that services can understand what people and their families want from care.

These awards recognise the importance of how people’s feedback is vital. Thanks to the 406,000 people who shared their experiences with Healthwatch last year, positive changes have been made to how local health and care services are run.

The local Healthwatch shortlisted for 2019 Healthwatch Network Awards were picked from almost 150 award entries.

The winner from each category will be chosen by a panel of external judges and announced at the Healthwatch England Annual Conference on 1 October 2019.

**Award categories**

**Delete category if not nominated**

**Outstanding individuals who've made a difference**

This award recognises a volunteer or individual who has worked passionately to improve health and social care services for their community.

* Healthwatch Brent

• Healthwatch Buckinghamshire

• Healthwatch East riding of Yorkshire

• Healthwatch Essex

• Healthwatch Surrey

**Giving people the advice and information they need**

This award recognises how Healthwatch have helped people make decisions about their health and wellbeing by getting them the advice and information they need.

* Healthwatch Devon
* Healthwatch Hillingdon
* Healthwatch Lancashire
* Healthwatch Lewisham
* Healthwatch Liverpool
* Healthwatch Wirral

**Improving health and social care**

This award recognises Healthwatch who have used people's views to make tangible improvements to local health and social care services.

* Healthwatch Manchester
* Healthwatch North Tyneside
* Healthwatch Suffolk
* Healthwatch Sutton
* Healthwatch Wakefield
* Healthwatch West Berkshire

**Championing diversity and inclusion**

This award recognises how Healthwatch have made a difference to the experience of diverse communities using health and social care services.

* Healthwatch Bexley
* Healthwatch East Sussex
* Healthwatch Kent
* Healthwatch Lincolnshire
* Healthwatch Wolverhampton

**Helping more people to have their say**

This award recognises Healthwatch who have used people's views to make tangible improvements to local health and social care services.

* Healthwatch Leeds
* Healthwatch Luton
* Healthwatch Northamptonshire
* Healthwatch Southampton
* Healthwatch Sutton

**Insert local CEO/Chair quote here**

**[Remember to thank those who helped you get the nomination, (eg local people, volunteers and/or stakeholders) and include a call to action for people to get involved, (eg give feedback, volunteer and have their say**

Jacob Lant, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Healthwatch said, “The Healthwatch Network Awards are a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the difference local Healthwatch have made across the country.

“This year we received some outstanding entries from the network, which has made the shortlisting even more challenging. We have been very impressed by the quality and incredible range of work on show.

“These entries highlight the real impact we can have when people come forward and tell us about their experiences. Healthwatch can only make a difference when people speak up and help services understand what is working and what is not.”

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors:**

**About us**

Healthwatch is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services. We exist to ensure that people are at the heart of care. We listen to what people like about services, and what could be improved and we share their views with those with the power to make change happen. We also help people find the information they need about services in their area.

We have the power to ensure that people’s voices are heard by the government and those running services. As well as seeking the public’s views ourselves, we also encourage services to involve people in decisions that affect them. Our sole purpose is to help make care better for people.

www.healthwatch.co.uk

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