

# Healthwatch Network Awards 2021 - Tackling inequalities

Everything you need to apply for the Healthwatch  
Network Awards

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## Healthwatch Network Awards 2021

We're celebrating the extraordinary work Healthwatch teams do across the network, especially making real changes within your communities. Whether big or small, if you're proud of your achievements, put in an application and apply for an award.

### Award category: Tackling inequalities

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit some parts of society harder than others, exacerbating existing inequalities for older people, disabled people, ethnic minority communities and those on low incomes.

It's vital that we address the structural inequalities that the pandemic has clearly brought to light. This is why we have a greater focus on ensuring we can all get the health and care we need.

It's vital that we address the structural inequalities that the pandemic has clearly brought to light. In doing so, it is equally important to support the active participation and involvement of those local communities and groups. This is why your work has been essential in providing support to these groups and making the case for more equal and inclusive health and social care.

### Criteria

1. Please give a summary of the project (No score given: 50 words max).
2. Tell us how you used community involvement to understand the health and social care needs of a diverse community in your area (Scored: 250 max)

The panel will be scoring on:

- How you established relationships and a common goal with the community.
- How you worked with the community to agree a topic, theme or question.
- How you worked with the community to develop your programme of work, research, or engagement process and tools.
- How you worked with the community to deliver the project and collect the data.
- How you shared the findings with the community and agree how the findings would be used.

3. How has your work helped to improve people's experiences of health and social care services? (Scored: 250 words max)

The panel will be scoring on:

- How you raised issues regarding health inequalities with the relevant commissioners and/or providers.
- Your achievements, outcomes (actual or expected), impact and accompanying evidence.

4. How did you share the successes of your community involvement and the impact it had?  
(Scored: 250 max)

The panel will be scoring on:

- How you evaluated and reflected on the collaborative approach used.
- How you celebrated and communicated the impact you achieved, via your own channels, in the media and the local community.

## Important information for this category

When filling out your application you might want to include examples of how you've tackled inequalities, such as work:

- That was driven by the community or participants and how you facilitated this.
- That supported or collaborated with people from minority ethnic communities in your area.
- Which involved coming together as partners, pooling skills and working together with people from seldom heard communities that resulted in change or improvement on the issue for them.

## Important information for all submissions

### Submission notes and guidance

- The project for this category must have been carried out between April 2020 and July 2021.
- Your Healthwatch can enter as many categories as you want, but only make one application per category except for the Working with your Integrated Care Partnership category.
- The panel are aware that the network is diverse in terms of size, models and resourcing. The panel focus on how a Healthwatch has used their limited resources effectively to achieve outcomes and impact, so all, no matter their size, have an opportunity to take part.
- Award submissions should be no more than the provided word count stated in the criteria sections, where applicable, and must answer the question.

### Supporting evidence

- You can include a maximum of three pieces of evidence as part of your overall submission. This could include:
  - Links/documents to external websites or attachments of documents produced by other organisations, including news items and press releases.
  - Testimonials from your commissioner or external partners(s). This can be in addition to the word limit. If you do so, then please ensure you include their name, job title and their work email address.

- Pictures from events, news articles/media or resources or written materials, which were developed as part of the project.
- For entries submitted with more than three pieces of evidence, only your first three items will be considered with your entry.

## Closing date for applications

The closing date for all applications is Friday 13 August. The awards will be presented as part of Healthwatch Week: 9 - 12 November 2021.

## What happens next?

- A panel made of the Healthwatch England Committee will judge the awards based on a short list.
- The short list will be drawn up by scoring applications based on the criteria set out above.
- There will be one overall winner and two runners up in this category.
- All applicants, including shortlisted entries will be notified of the outcome in the week commencing 27 September. Award winners will be announced during Healthwatch Week.

## Award queries

For any queries on the awards, please email the team on: [annualconference@healthwatch.co.uk](mailto:annualconference@healthwatch.co.uk)