

Healthwatch Network Awards 2021 - Celebrating our volunteer team

Everything you need to apply for the Healthwatch
Network Awards



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: Celebrating our volunteer team

We're so proud of all our volunteers. No one could have foreseen the global pandemic last year. Yet, our volunteers stepped up to support the community fight against COVID-19. Healthwatch volunteers gave advice and information to an uncertain public, found new ways to reach even those forced to isolate, and took the time to understand the worries of their communities. They adapted to new ways of working remotely and even learnt new skills to get the job done.

Healthwatch volunteers have been instrumental in listening to people from all walks of life, ensuring that these views informed NHS and government decisions about making critical improvements to care and reducing health inequalities.

This award recognises the fantastic efforts volunteer teams have played contributing to the success of Healthwatch.

Criteria

Tell us about the work your volunteers have done and why it's special

This could be one project, a virtual visit, a Healthwatch or a community event(s) or other activities involving or led by your volunteers.

1. Please give a summary of the project? (No score given: 50 words max).
2. How did you deliver the project? (Scored: 150 max)

The panel will be scoring on:

- Your approach to setting clear roles and responsibilities to make the best use of team members' skills and expertise
- The methods you chose for your activity
- How you involved the local community and seldom heard people
- How you engaged with local stakeholders

3. How did your volunteers work together to deliver this project? (Scored: 150 words max)

The panel will be scoring on:

- How your volunteers supported each other
- How your volunteers adapted their usual activities because of the pandemic

- How your volunteers were supported by your staff. For example, supervision or wellbeing check-ins.

Impact and outcomes

4. What impact have your volunteers made to improve people's experiences of health and social care services through this project? (Scored and given double weighting: max 150 words).

The panel will be scoring on:

- The specific contribution that the volunteers made to the success of the project.

Important information for this category

When filling out your application please note:

- When we talk about 'volunteer activities' we mean those connected to the Healthwatch Statutory activities, including involving volunteers in governance and decision-making.
- If your entry is predominantly about what your volunteers did to support communities during the pandemic, please apply for the COVID-19 response award.
- Submissions should highlight your volunteers as a group, not just individual volunteers. You can submit an application about your board, provided they are volunteers.
- When talking about impact, we understand that you may not know the long-term outcomes yet. But we are interested in what has changed as a result of their work.
- It might help to think of the project if the volunteers hadn't been involved. This will help you to see the benefit of their involvement and leadership.

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