**£2000 funding opportunity to find 2 interviewees for our project on GP practices and the idea of ‘choice’ - apply by 2 Jan 2025**

**The opportunity**

Healthwatch England is looking to better understand the importance and experience of ‘choice’ when people use their GP. We know that ‘choice’ gets talked about a lot within the NHS as an abstract concept, but we want to understand in more practical terms when and in what circumstances choice is valuable to patients, and whether they get those choices currently.

We are looking for 10 Healthwatch to help us with this. We will provide £2000 of funding for two detailed interviews with people who have recent experience of using GP services. These interviews will explore with people whether they have or haven’t experienced choice during their interaction with GP services, and how they feel about that.

We are conscious that many people who use GP services only have a limited and passing interaction, and therefore may not have that much experience to share. We want to ensure that these interviews deliver sufficient insight for us, so we are stipulating that interviews must be with people who have enough experience for an interview of at least 30 minutes. We suggest this means people who have an ongoing relationship with their GP, such as those with long term conditions.

These experiences will be added to national polling we will commission separate to the network.

Successful Healthwatch will need to demonstrate they can find the number of interviewees within the timeframe, what local connections they may use to find them, and ability to provide a clean and accurate transcript of the interview.

Research is planned to be 20 January to 28 February. We will require transcripts of interviews to be delivered to us by 28 February at the latest.

We are conscious that this timescale is shorter than we usually offer, this is why we are offering higher than usual funding of £1000 per interview for participation in this project.

**The groups we want to reach**

We want to hear from people who have enough experience with GP services to give at least a 30-minute interview. Our suggestion is that people with long term conditions would be suitable interviewees, however we are open to your suggestions outside this group.

We are also interested in hearing the experience of some specific groups.

* People who are full-time parents or guardians to children under 18.
* People from an ethnic minority background.
* People on a low income.
* People facing access barriers to visiting a GP (this could be due to disability, living in a rural location, and/or lack of transport options).

We would like at least one of your interviews to represent one or more of these groups. Please indicate in your expression of interest which of these groups you propose to cover through your interviews. As part of our selection process, we will be making sure we get a good spread across these groups. If you are confident you could access all of them, please indicate this.

**The criteria**

We would welcome expressions of interest from local Healthwatch who can provide clear examples of how they meet the following criteria. *Submissions are scored separately within each area for the total score.*

* Relevant staff experience and expertise to find and conduct the two interviews needed for this work. For example, have interviews been done before, or does this skill now exist in the team? Please name the staff you propose to do the work and describe their experience and expertise specifically.
* A clear plan for identifying and recruiting suitable participants,
* Ability to access participants in the groups outlined above. If you have worked with any of these groups successfully before do include this detail. Please include detail of which groups you can commit to accessing for your interviews.
* Ability to meet the above timescales, and a contingency plan for if allotted staff cannot complete the project.

It is not essential to have worked on GP practices and experiences within them to take part in this project. However, it will help to have details of previous work on this, be they reports, engagement or from your enquiry/signposting.

**Timescales and how to apply**

* Please send expressions of interest, describing how you meet the criteria, to [research@healthwatch.co.uk](mailto:research@healthwatch.co.uk) by 9:00AM on Thursday 2 January 2025. These can be as an email or word document and no more than 600 words.
* A cross-team panel of Healthwatch England staff will review the expressions of interest w/c 30 December 2024.
* We will aim to make funding offers to successful applicants w/c 6 January 2025, with a view to successful applicants being able to start the work w/c 20 January 2025.
* The completed funding agreement and associated paperwork must ideally be submitted to Healthwatch England by 12 January 2025.
* There will be a project kick off meeting. This will take place on Wednesday 15 January between 10:00 and 11:30 Please hold this in your diary if you apply for this opportunity. We will circulate a document with information on the format and questions for the interviews after this meeting.

**About the funding opportunity**

* We will make payment on the successful receipt of the interview transcripts and receipt of invoice.
* The standard terms and conditions of Healthwatch England will apply. All costs are inclusive of VAT.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact [will.howard@healthwatch.co.uk](mailto:will.howard@healthwatch.co.uk) or [research@healthwatch.co.uk](mailto:research@healthwatch.co.uk)

Please note, expressions of interest themselves *must* go to [research@healthwatch.co.uk](mailto:research@healthwatch.co.uk)