

BELIEFS

What are our core beliefs?

Belief 1
We believe that health and social care providers can best improve services by listening to people's experiences.

Belief 2
We believe that everyone in society needs to be included in the conversation. Especially those whose voices aren't being listened to.

Belief 3
We believe that comparing lots of different experiences helps us to identify patterns and learn what is and isn't working.

Belief 4
We believe that feedback has to lead to change. Listening for listening's sake is not enough.

Belief 5
We believe that we must always remain independent and impartial while working with partners to get things done.

VALUES

What are our values?

Listening
We recognise the value of listening to people and making sure their voices are heard.

Including
We value inclusivity. Listening to the first-hand experiences of diverse groups improves care for everyone.

Analysing
We value the insight that's gained from analysing many different people's experiences to learn how to improve care.

Acting
We act on feedback and drive change. Listening has to positively affect outcomes and influence important decisions about people's care.

Partnering
We value strong partnerships with care providers and Government – serving as the public's independent advocate.

STRAPLINE

Your health and social care champion

Healthwatch is your health and social care champion. We make sure NHS leaders and other decision makers hear your voice and use your feedback to improve care.

Healthwatch is your health and social care champion. If you use [GPs and hospitals](#), [dentists](#), [pharmacies](#), [care homes](#) or other [support services](#), we want to hear about your experiences. We have the power to make sure NHS leaders and other decision makers listen to your feedback and improve standards of care. We also help people to find reliable and trustworthy [information and advice](#). Last year, we helped nearly a million people like you to [have your say](#) and get the [support](#) you need.

SHORT PROPOSITION

Who are we?

LONG PROPOSITION

The Healthwatch model is incredibly simple. We give people the opportunity to share their experiences of using health and social care services in England, and make sure that this valuable feedback reaches the powers that be and leads to positive change. We also help people to get the information and advice they need.

Exactly how we do that – and the complexity involved in running our organisation – is irrelevant to members of the public and doesn't need to factor in our communications. Internally, we're rightfully proud that we're running a 'high quality service', but to the outside world, that should be a given.

We need to keep things simple and employ a 'back to basics' approach. That means using fewer words, simplifying our messages and making a direct appeal to patients and service users. We personalise our comms by always talking to the reader, so one of our old statements like, 'We are the independent champion for people who use health and social care services' becomes 'Your health and social care champion'. It uses half the words and suddenly you're talking to me.

We've been using the word 'champion' for a long time, because that's exactly what we are. But the problem is, we

haven't sounded like a champion. And that needs to change. Champions are strong, they're brave and they're effective. And these are our brand attributes. Strong because people (especially those who are vulnerable or marginalised) need an advocate. Brave because working within the system to hold decision makers to account is never easy. And effective because it's vital that people get the information and advice they need to make informed decisions and that their valuable feedback is taken on board – there's nothing to be gained from listening if nothing ever changes.

And that's why it's so important that the Healthwatch brand is synonymous with impact. Yes we're rightly proud of how many people we reach each year, but moving forwards we need to be altogether more focused on what happens next. Whether that's changing a local GP surgery, or wholesale systems change at a national level, we are the people that inform and drive positive change.

Remember, cynicism and apathy are our enemy. So be exact and be concrete. Tell me that there are over 150 local Healthwatch, or that you helped to support nearly a million people last year. And, in time, try to find out how many beds have been added to wards, how much waiting times have

been reduced, how systems and processes have changed as a direct result of patient and service user feedback. Or how your advice helped someone get the support they desperately needed. This data won't be easy to find, but find it we must – so that we can demonstrate action. It's fine to caveat our data, or frame the context of our claims. What matters is that people understand we're obsessed by impact. And to ensure everyone understands that they can trust us to get the job done, and that we do have the sway to drive change.

Healthwatch is a people's brand. When writing, always try to write as you'd speak. Be conversational, keep it light and don't try to be formal. We're not writing to a policymaker, we're dealing with everyday people.

Consider our tone of voice and brand personality. We're evidence-based, trustworthy, on your side, supportive and insightful. And we're also: caring, expert, curious, fair, personable and courageous. That's a long list and clearly every paragraph doesn't need to capture all of these attributes. But ask yourself from time to time how long it's been since you've been 'insightful' for example and decide if you need to write an article or social media post...

Or whether the information and advice you've provided is trustworthy, supportive and personable? And are you championing the cause of local people?

Our brand has always been good at the detail and capturing the head, but we need to do a lot more to uncover the emotional drivers behind what we do, and tell stories that capture the heart.

While we're determined to increase awareness and reach when it comes to the Healthwatch brand, in our messaging it's sometimes right for our own voice to take a back seat and to allow the voice of service users and decision makers to shout louder. Think of us as the Question Time presenter. We have to hold the stage, broker the peace and facilitate an engaging and lively conversation – but the public aren't interested in us, they simply want to air their concerns and have a right of reply.

A good example of this is our campaign messaging. Instead of telling people how great we are, we instead adopt the public's voice and use the kind of phrases we hear all the time. Like: 'What's the point? Nothing ever changes' and 'I wish I could say thank you'. Beneath each of these eye-catching and provocative statements we can

then expand on why it's so important that people share their feedback or seek information and advice. Ultimately, we're looking for people to think, 'that's exactly how I feel!...

Finally, in the spirit of simplification and expediency, it's best not to get too obsessed by explaining the Healthwatch network. People don't need to know about our hub and spoke model, or that Healthwatch England supports their local Healthwatch. All they need to know is that Healthwatch exists to support them and that they can find us in every community.

So Healthwatch continues its mission to help people to get advice, share their experiences, and drive further improvements in care. We go forward a little nimbler, a little more accessible, and with an unwavering focus on getting (and communicating) results. But overall we'll continue to get the job done. Because we know that the work we're doing is improving people's lives.

So as and when people need advice, or they're ready to tell us their story, whether good or bad, happy or sad – we'll always be here to listen and to drive positive change.

PERSONALITY / TONE OF VOICE

What's our brand personality?

CAMPAIGNS

What's our campaign messaging?

WHAT'S THE POINT? NOTHING EVER CHANGES

After a negative experience, it's easy to think like that. But if nobody hears about what you've been through – nothing can change.

THEY SAVED MY LIFE. I WISH I COULD SAY THANK YOU

You can. Your local Healthwatch doesn't just want to hear about negative experiences. It's also really important to see what great practice looks like.

I FEEL LOST. I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN

Speak to your local Healthwatch. They'll be able to offer information and advice to help you get the support you need.

THE STAFF ARE AMAZING. BUT THEY'RE NOT GETTING THE SUPPORT THEY NEED

Feedback doesn't have to be black or white. There can be many things about the service you received that you really valued while still being room for improvement.

WORST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE!

Then please tell us about it, so that we can get you the help you need and make sure that decision makers learn how to improve.

YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH

Then tell us. And let us tell them. Your local Healthwatch is ready to listen to your experiences and be your champion for positive change.

I JUST HOPE THIS NEVER HAPPENS TO ANYONE ELSE

Hopefully it doesn't have to. But only if you speak up, share your experiences and let us make decision makers aware of what needs to change.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF IT. IT MIGHT AS WELL BE IN GIBBERISH!

There's a lot of jargon in the world of health and social care.

We provide support and information to help you understand your options and get the help you need.

IT'S ALRIGHT... I'VE GOOGLED IT

Doctor Google has a lot to answer for. Healthwatch can help you to find reliable and trustworthy information that you can trust. We can signpost you to relevant services and help you to get the support you need.

The Public

- To be heard / for you to listen to [people like me](#)
- To access help and support
- To vent my frustration / anger / disappointment
- To stop anyone else having to suffer
- To overcome culture barriers
- To know negative comments won't affect my care
- For you to understand the complexities of my situation (e.g. housing, mental health)
- To be signposted in the right direction and to end confusion and uncertainty

Health & Social Care Professionals

- To make a real difference to people's lives
- To get to people we can't reach and hear from a wider selection of the public
- To access information that can: improve treatment | save money | make life easier
- To use your insights to quickly find solutions to our challenges
- To feel good about positive change

Local Stakeholders

- To know what local people want and need – so we can plan accordingly
- To help me spend well, prevent waste and gauge my performance relative to others
- To access decision making structures and a network with a large reach
- Evidence (for Local Government to know about issues they need to worry about BEFORE it hits the press – and vice versa for the press)
- To raise our local issues nationally and to see my work celebrated more widely

Partners & National Stakeholders

- To work with an organisation that's capable of understanding (and amplifying) issues that are important to our audiences
- A strong ally
- An independent partner with no axe to grind
- A willing partner with insight into local needs
- Evidence (for Government to know about issues they need to worry about BEFORE it hits the press – and vice versa for the press)
- Information and insight – to help me spend well, prevent waste and stop me making mistakes

CALLS TO ACTION

What do you want me to do?

- Share your stories and experiences with us (by online survey, telephone or email)
- Access information, support and guidance (via the website or telephone)
- Recommend us to friends and family or even get involved and volunteer at your local Healthwatch

- Open doors for us – direct people to us and to our support and information
- Before changing anything, come and talk to us
- Work with us to tackle the issues raised and tell us how things changed as a result

- Partner with us, listen to us and consider our advice – we can achieve more together
- Bring us in early, before key decisions have been made (for Local Government etc.)
- Invest in us / support us financially – our work delivers value (and costs money)

- Partner with us and take on board our feedback – we can achieve more together
- Bring us in early, before key decisions have been made (for Government etc.)
- Help us to encourage more people to come forward and share their experiences

MARKETING MESSAGES

What kind of messages will make me care?

- We want to hear from YOU
- Your voice will make a difference
- Your experiences can help to improve care
- It's quick and easy to share your experiences
- Here's what we've already achieved... (stories, stats, case studies)
- We can offer a lot of support and can signpost you to relevant information
- If someone you know needs help, tell them about us
- Our local Healthwatch know your communities and local needs

- We need your help
- Our network can enable you to hear the voice of the public – to involve and consult with them
- We can save you time / money by conducting research and testing on your behalf
- We can help you to gain the trust of your communities / reach your communities
- We can get people in a room that you might not be able to
- We can inform change, but only you can make it happen
- We can help you to continuously improve

- We've got a reach into your local community as well as every area across England
- We can quickly help you to understand the key issues you need to be thinking about
- We're all working toward the same goal – improving health and social care for everyone
- Support us – our work doesn't come for free (for Local Gov)
- Commission us (Local Authorities and charity partners)
- Be open about your operational challenges
- We value your expertise – we rely on you to fill the gaps in our knowledge

- We've got connections in every community
- We can quickly help you to understand the key issues you need to be thinking about
- We're all working toward the same goal: improving health and social care for everyone
- For press:
 - We can give you access to stories / stats about people's real experiences of health and social care
 - We can give you a more nuanced sense of the reality people are experiencing – not just voices of outrage
 - We can be a one stop source of expertise and can speak on behalf of partners / charities etc.