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healthwatch
York

Your spotlight on local services

Hello,

Welcome to the July 2025 edition of Healthwatch York's monthly e-bulletin. Here's what's coming up in this month's bulletin:

- [Healthwatch York News](#)
- [Health and Social Care News](#)
- [Local Health and Social Care News](#)
- [Local Projects](#)
- [Training and Resources](#)
- [Key Dates](#)

If you would like to include an update in the August edition, please email healthwatch@yorkcvs.org.uk.

If at any time you would like to stop receiving these bulletins, please use the unsubscribe link below or email us direct.

Many thanks,

Healthwatch York Team

Healthwatch York News

The future of Healthwatch

The government have announced that they want to scrap Healthwatch, which will include both Healthwatch England and local Healthwatch across the country, including Healthwatch York. This was our response to the news in our Summer Magazine.

This is clearly very sad for our staff, volunteers, and everyone associated with Healthwatch York who have proudly supported local people to speak up about their experiences of health and social care.

England can become a senior manager role at the Department of Health and Social Care. It has also been announced that people will be encouraged to share their feedback on hospital services via the NHS App.

For over 12 years, Healthwatch York has worked to bring more voices to decision making in the city. From demanding better support for people experiencing mental health crisis, to highlighting the challenges for Deaf people in accessing health and care support, we have advocated for people in York. Our work on dentistry and access to autism and ADHD assessment pathways has been part of the national discussion about these services.

Siân Balsom, our Manager at Healthwatch York said: "Every day, on a shoestring budget, we've listened to people's stories; we've connected them to people and support that makes a difference to their lives; and we've raised the voices of those too often overlooked in our health and care system. We've constructively challenged partners as needed, with the power of real-life stories. The stories we share are rich in the sorts of details a service review simply can't provide."

Janet Wright, Chair of Healthwatch York added: This is a really sad day for everyone involved with the Healthwatch network. Successive governments have said people should be at the heart of our system. But that can only really happen when that voice is independent. Self-regulation doesn't work. Independence is part of our DNA. The irony is that it has taken us a long time to establish ourselves as an equal partner in the health and care system. To lose what we've worked so hard to achieve, to lose the people who have made this the success it is, would take years to rebuild."

We want people in York to know that although this change has been announced, for the time being it is business as usual for the team. As we were established by legislation, new legislation is needed to abolish us. The earliest this can be introduced is the King's Speech. Although this hasn't been formally announced, this is likely to be scheduled for May 2026. The Bill will then need to pass through all the stages of the parliamentary process before it becomes law. In the meantime, we will be exploring all the options available to keep working hard for people in York.

Local Healthwatch services unite to fight for independent public voice

131 local Healthwatch services across England, including Healthwatch York, have signed an open letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, urging the government to reconsider proposals that would bring the public voice functions under the control of the local authorities and NHS bodies.

The letter, which represents 86% of the national network, warns that the proposed changes would seriously compromise the independence that makes public feedback effective and trusted.

Local Healthwatch services unite



Summer Magazine now available

We have published our latest magazine. The summer edition contains news about the future of Healthwatch, updates about our on-going work and features news and information about some of the amazing services and support available locally.

The magazine is available on our website (link below) or get in touch if you would like a printed copy.

Healthwatch York Summer Magazine

Healthwatch York annual meeting

The Healthwatch York annual meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th July from 10am - 12 noon at the Priory Street Centre.

Come along to find out what we've been doing over the past year, our plans and the latest about what is happening to Healthwatch, including Healthwatch York.

Book your place through the link below.

Healthwatch York annual meeting

women's health experiences in York

Healthwatch York has just published its latest report on women's health. This report shares local women's experiences of health and care across the life course. We bring these stories together to try and provide a more complete picture of women's health in York.

Overall, women want to be listened to. Collectively and individually. Many women talked to us about their poor experiences in seeking help for health issues. They want to see improved recognition of, and support pathways for, long term conditions. These include:

- Endometriosis and fibrosis
- ME / CFS
- Fibromyalgia
- POTS
- Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome
- Osteoporosis
- Pre-menstrual dysphoric disorder

Women also shared their concerns about issues relating to menopause, especially early menopause. They reported concerns about dismissive attitudes, and a lack of consistency about the support available. But they also wanted to highlight that women continue to need good health and care support after menopause.

The full report is available on our website, link below.

[Healthwatch York Women's Health Report](#)

Care home visit - Ivy Lodge Retirement Home, Briergate, Haxby

Our most recent care home visit was to Ivy Lodge Retirement Home, Briergate, Haxby, on Friday 18th July.

As usual, we have surveys available for family, friends and staff members who were not there on the day of our visit but would like to give us their feedback about Ivy Lodge. The surveys are on our website and the links are below.

The surveys are anonymous and the closing date for responses is 1st August.

[Ivy Lodge staff survey](#)

[Ivy Lodge family & friends survey](#)

Healthwatch York is your way to influence local health and social care services – hospitals, GP surgeries, home care services and many others. Here are some key issues we are hearing about in York:

Excellent support from social prescriber

We received feedback about a person who had recently been in hospital and was supported by a social prescriber when they were discharged. The social prescriber has been excellent and extremely helpful in getting them home.

If you have an experience you would like to share, please get in touch.

No support following appointment about dementia

We heard from someone who went to their GP as they were worried they might have dementia. The GP did some tests and said they thought they did have dementia, but they didn't do anything else or tell the person what would happen next.

[Share your experiences with us here](#)

Things we are aware of and would like to hear more about...

The feedback we receive covers a wide variety of themes and issues, but sometimes we start to hear more about new issues that we would like to examine further. If you have any experience to share about the following, please get in touch:

- Reports of perceived differences in treatment for men and women
- Support for men's mental health
- Accessing gender identity clinics
- Waiting for social care
- Experiences of seeking adult ADHD and Autism assessments

Contact us through our website (link below) or by email: healthwatch@yorkcvs.org.uk.

[Share your experiences with us here](#)

Health and Social Care News

10 Year Health Plan for England: fit for the future

The government has published its 10 Year Health Plan and you can read the full plan here: [10 Year Health Plan for England: fit for the future - GOV.UK..](#)

Here is what it says about our future role:

Since their inception in 2012, Healthwatch England, working with local Healthwatch organisations, has gathered detailed patient feedback and used this to influence debate around local service delivery. While this has been valuable, we need to go much further. We will bring patient voice 'in house' - to give it a greater profile within a reformed Department of Health and Social Care. Specifically, we will create a new National Director of Patient Experience, responsible for overseeing the collection of more informed feedback from both patients and carers - and making it publicly available. This will incorporate the functions of Healthwatch England, as well as the work on patient experience adopted by the Patient Safety Commissioner (PSC). The work of local Healthwatch bodies relating to healthcare will be brought together with ICB and provider engagement functions (chapter 5). Individual provider boards will be asked to ensure they have robust mechanisms in place to collect and use patient feedback, ensuring it is actively fed back to individual clinicians and clinical teams. This will be the norm across the NHS by 2026. Local authorities will take up local Healthwatch social care functions.

The plan adds: 'They [ICBs] will need to shape commissioning plans through deep engagement with patients and the public'....and will need 'User involvement functions, to ensure services meet the needs of communities'.

The plan will also:

- allow patients to give direct feedback via the NHS App
- abolish integrated care partnerships
- abolish governors on NHS foundation trusts.
- introduce a new patient choice charter, starting in the areas of highest health need to 'ensure the NHS is receptive and reactive to patient preference, voice and choice'
- pilot in certain areas during 2026 and 2027, how patient voice can directly impact financial flows, such as using CQC inspection results, patient satisfaction surveys, and experience data to directly influence payments to providers
- update NHS complaints regulations and set clear standards for both the timeliness and the quality of responses to complaint, and use AI tools to look at complaints data.

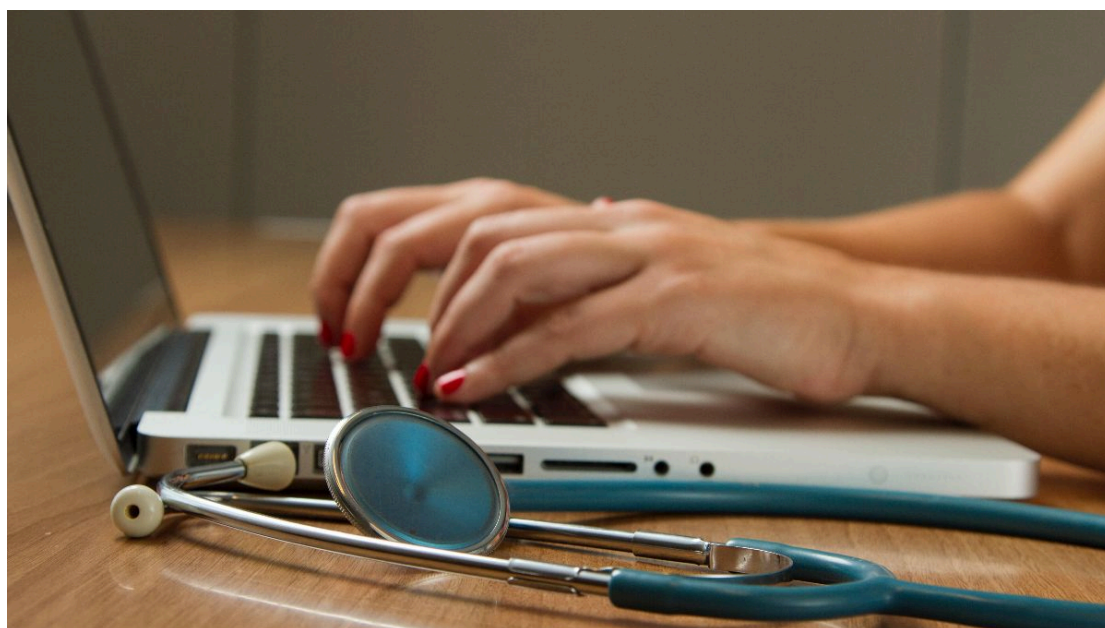
Read the full document via the link below.

NHS publishes waiting list breakdowns to tackle health inequalities

In a step towards tackling health inequalities, the NHS has started publishing waiting list data by ethnicity, deprivation and region. Healthwatch England have long campaigned for this change which is vital for exposing and addressing unfair treatment.

Read more on the NHS England website, link below.

NHS England

The logo for Healthwatch, featuring the word 'healthwatch' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'h' is dark blue, 'e' is pink, 'a' is dark blue, 'l' is dark blue, 't' is dark blue, 'h' is dark blue, 'w' is dark blue, 'a' is green, 't' is dark blue, 'c' is dark blue, and 'h' is dark blue.

Publication of the Leng Review of Physician Associates and Anaesthesia Associates

The recently published Leng Review examined the role and status of physician associates and anaesthesia associates. The Review has recommended that physician associates are to be renamed 'physician assistants' and will face new changes to their practice,

The government has accepted in full the findings of the Leng Review, which acknowledged key patient concerns about:

- lack of clarity about the role, including identification and confusion with a doctor
- barriers to care, for example if a prescription was required
- lack of confidence in whether they were seeing an appropriate medical professional.

NHS England has written to all trusts, practices and integrated care boards to tell them to use the new titles of physician or anaesthesia assistants immediately. This change will be

Read more on the Healthwatch England website, link below.

Healthwatch England

Local Health and Social Care News

Help to develop the York All-Age autism and ADHD strategy 2025-2030

On behalf of City of York Council and Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, we are consulting on an All-Age Autism and ADHD strategy covering 2025-2030. The production of this strategy has had a lot of input from partners and groups in the city which support and advocate for people who are neurodivergent over the last six months, and we are now consulting on a draft document, which is also available in an easy read version.

You can have your say in various ways:

- **In person:** At the Gateway Centre in Acomb on Tuesday 15 July 11-1pm and Monday 21 July 5-7pm
- **Join the online session** via bit.ly/40Ebbna on Thursday 31 July 1-2pm
- **[Complete an online survey](#)**
- **Complete a paper survey:** Available from Customer Services at West Offices

The consultation will run until Monday 11th August. For more information and to view the draft strategy, visit the City of York website, link below.

CYC Consultations

York Hungry Minds Appeal serves 50,000 free school meals

City of York Council has reported that over 50,000 free school meals have been served to children in York as part of the city's York Hungry Minds campaign since it started in 2024.

York Community Fund's York Hungry Minds Appeal was set up in a bid to address disadvantage and the impact of the cost of living crisis, responding to national evidence suggesting that providing children with healthy, nourishing food can make a significant difference to school attendance, concentration and learning and their physical and mental wellbeing.

Westfield Primary Community School pupils were the first school to benefit from the free school meals in January 2024, with Burton Green Primary School pupils receiving free breakfasts later that month and Fishergate Primary School joining the pilot in March 2025.

result of the breakfast offer.

Read more on the CYC website.

CYC



safer streets

Support Safer Streets

Show you're a business that cares.
Sign up for our free, 50-minute
safety briefing video and help make
your local area safer for women,
girls and everyone.



Sign up

Delivered by IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services)

Latest CQC Reports

We publish all the CQC reports for the month as they are released on our website. Follow the link for the most recent reports.

[Visit our website](#)

Local Projects



The Friargate ND Warm Welcome

Would you Like a Friendly Chat over a Cup of Tea?

Friargate Quakers welcome everyone looking for a safe and uncritical place to meet and socialise. We welcome everyone, particularly those identifying as Neurodivergent.

We have plenty of space and can meet the needs of a wide variety of sensory requirements. We'll be offering free refreshments and look forward to chatting with our guests!

Where: The Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York, YO1 9RL

When: Every Friday from 2:00-4:00 pm.

Cost: Free!

All welcome!

Website: www.friargate.quakermeeting.org

Email: friargate@yorkquakers.org.uk

Call: 01904 624065

or simply drop in!

Celebrate life, connections and creativity at York's only festival dedicated to the over 50s!

York Older People's Assembly and Age UK York announce plans for York 50+ Festival - Saturday 20 September to Wednesday 1 October 2025

York Older People's Assembly (YOPA) and Age UK York are collaborating to host the York 50+ Festival - a unique, 10-day event featuring an exciting mix of talks, performances and social activities. The only festival in York dedicated to those over 50, it's a fun social event

This year's festival theme is Celebrating and Connecting. With 77,030 residents aged over 50 in York, our goal is to highlight the evolving and diverse experience of growing older. Since YOPA's inception in 2001, views around ageing have changed significantly - people are living longer, spanning multiple generations, and redefining what it means to be 50+. Twenty years ago, no one was playing walking football or pickleball. Expectations of later life are shifting dramatically.

For more information, see their website, link below.

50+ Festival

Say Aphasia - support for people with aphasia

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 2.30-4.30 pm, Gateway Centre, Acomb

Say Aphasia offers a supportive and uplifting community for people with aphasia, where peer support is at the heart of the charity. People with aphasia can meet and learn how to adapt to the condition and re-engage with life.

For more information, see their website, link below.

Say Aphasia



Take the Green Route



Enjoy our **FREE** Summer Nature Programme!

You'll enjoy a healthy outdoor lifestyle and learn about nature in small friendly groups from 24 June to 13 August 2025



Nature in the Week

Tuesday Nature Rides at 12.30

**Tuesday Cycling Without Age
All Ability Rickshaw Rides**

**Wednesday Nature Walks at 12.30
from the Millennium Bridge**

Nature on Weekends

**Saturday 26 July
My Nature Journal Workshop**

**Saturday 9 August
Evening Nature Walk and Social**



We offer joining support for all ages and abilities, including bike hire. Booking needed for all rides and weekend events.

Talk to us at: takethegreenroute@gmail.com
07493 692490 | yorkbikebelles.community

**Everyone
welcome!**



**Take the
Green
Route**



YBB
York Bike Belles



Training and Resources



VCSE Webinar Series: PREVENT

Thursday 11 September, 2pm – 3.30pm, Zoom (online)

York CVS will be joined by colleagues from North Yorkshire Police who will provide key updates and information about what the VCSE sector can do to support the prevent strategy locally.

Book a place via the link below.

[Eventbrite](#)

Key Dates

Healthwatch York annual meeting - 29th July 2025

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[Healthwatch York annual meeting](#)

24th September 2025

The purpose of the Health and Wellbeing Board is to bring together key partners from the NHS, public health and local government, including Healthwatch York as the patient's voice, to jointly plan how best to meet local health and care needs.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 24th September 2025 at 4.30pm. For more information, see the City of York website, link below.

CYC

Get in touch

Healthwatch York

FREEPOST RTEG-BLES-RRYJ
15 Priory Street
YO1 6ET

Telephone: 01904 621133

Email: healthwatch@yorkcvs.org.uk

Website: www.healthwatchyork.co.uk



We've moved to Bluesky!

Come join us [@healthwatchyork.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/healthwatchyork.bsky.social)
<https://bsky.app/profile/healthwatchyork.bsky.social>
We will no longer be posting on or using X.



Facebook Instagram

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