



An update from Healthwatch Bedford Borough
Welcome to the latest news from
Healthwatch Bedford Borough.

HEALTHWATCH
BEDFORD BOROUGH
NEWSLETTER



Photo Credit: [Matthew Ayres](#)

HBB undertook a Listening Survey during February & March 2024, looking at what residents, patients, carers, and professionals felt that HBB's priority areas for the year ahead should be.

The wider Bedford team met on 5th April to go through all the data received from the Listening Survey, GP Access survey, Dental survey, and Stakeholder 360 survey, to look at key themes and discuss next steps. Our 2024/25 Work Programme is currently being drawn up. Details to follow.

We are looking forward to a great 2024/25, expanding on our work over the past year.



WhatsApp

Did you know you can now WhatsApp Healthwatch Bedford Borough!

You can contact the team via WhatsApp on 01234 638678.

01234 638 678

Send a text or voice note and we will get back to you!

Welcome Patricia

We'd like to extend a warm Healthwatch Bedford Borough welcome to the newest member of the Healthwatch Bedford Borough team, who started in March.



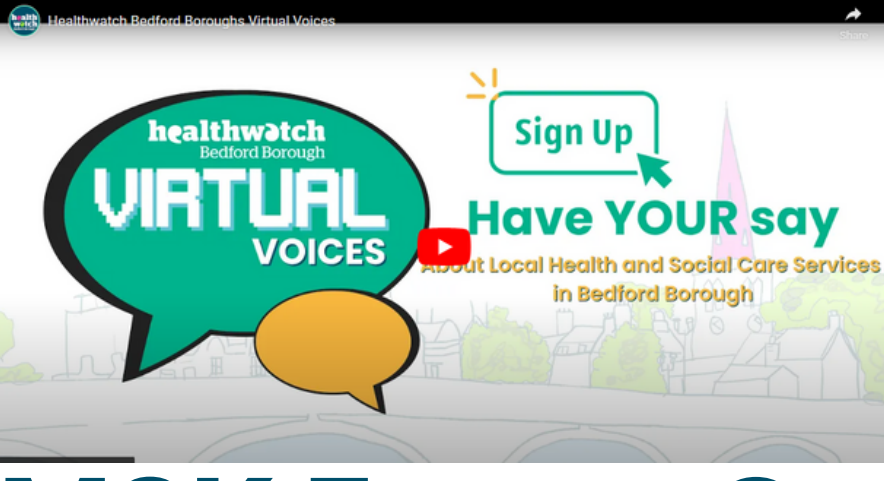
May we introduce Patricia Merayo-Garces, our new Community Outreach Officer.

Patricia will be getting out and about to meetings and events. If you have an event coming up and would like us to provide an exhibition stand, please email: enquiries@healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk
Welcome to **#TeamBedford** Patricia!

✉ p.merayo-garces@healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk

Virtual Voices

Virtual Voices is a new forum where you can have YOUR say and WIN prizes. Led by Healthwatch Bedford Borough, Virtual Voices provides Bedford Borough's residents with a unique opportunity to offer their opinions and provide constructive feedback on health and social care services in our town.



Watch the video for more information and how your voice can help make a difference.

[Join Virtual Voices](#)

[Have your say](#)

MSK Focus Groups

Healthwatch Bedford Borough have been commissioned by [Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership \(BLMK HCP\)](#) to undertake some targeted focus groups to gain views on the re-design of the community musculoskeletal (MSK) service.

Right now, the community MSK service is provided slightly differently across BLMK, and the contracts will be coming to an end in 2025, so this is your opportunity to have your say on future service redesign.

We are looking for a maximum of 10 participants aged 16 and above from Bedford Borough for this focus group. After participating, you will receive a £15 Amazon gift card as a thank you.

[Sign Up Now](#)

The first group is on 2nd May 10.30 am – 12 pm
St Andrew's Church
Kimbolton Road
Bedford
MK40 2PF

Call or WhatsApp [01234 638678](tel:01234 638678)

healthwatch Bedford Borough
Musculoskeletal Services
Focus group: How to improve local services

Join Healthwatch Bedford Borough to discuss your feedback and talk about the Musculoskeletal services in Bedford.

Thursday 2nd May 10.30-12pm
St Andrew's Church,
Kimbolton Road,
Bedford,
MK40 2PF

Register your interest
✉ enquiries@healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk
📞 WhatsApp 01234 638 678

Participants will receive a £15 Amazon voucher for taking part.

MSK focus groups to follow...

healthwatch Bedford Borough
Musculoskeletal Services
Working aged Men (16-49 years of age) focus group: How to improve local services

Join Healthwatch Bedford Borough to discuss your feedback and talk about the Musculoskeletal services in Bedford.

Details to follow
Register your interest
✉ enquiries@healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk
📞 WhatsApp 01234 638 678

Participants will receive a £15 Amazon voucher for taking part.

[Register your interest](#)

healthwatch Bedford Borough
Musculoskeletal Services
Gig economy workers focus group: How to improve local services

Join Healthwatch Bedford Borough to discuss your feedback and talk about the Musculoskeletal services in Bedford.

Details to follow
Register your interest
✉ enquiries@healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk
📞 WhatsApp 01234 638 678

Participants will receive a £15 Amazon voucher for taking part.

Reports

The latest reports from Healthwatch Bedford Borough

E&V Cinnamon Lodge

E&V Kimbolton Lodge

Supported Living Feedback Report

Supported Living Easy Read Recommendations

healthwatch Bedford Borough
Your local health and social care champion

Get involved

Volunteer with Healthwatch Bedford Borough
Opportunities for everyone

There are lots of different ways you can get involved as a Healthwatch volunteer, from speaking to people about their experiences of health and social care to using your skills to support Healthwatch Bedford Borough.

Independent Strategic Advisory Board (ISAB)
Play a key role in advising on our strategy and priorities. This ensures the involvement of local people in our work and decision-making, and helps us to make key decisions about how to use our statutory powers effectively whilst upholding our independence. We support multi disciplinary partnership working, and Healthwatch Advisory Board members represent us in wider stakeholder engagement and decision-making structures, i.e., BLMK Integrated Care Board (ICB), Local Authority Boards and committees, and NHS Trust committees and working groups.

Enter & View Authorised Representative
Listen and observe people's experiences of Health and Social Care services to understand what is working well and what can be improved.

Young Healthwatch
Ensure that young people's voices are heard and help to influence change to make Health and Social Care services better for children and young people.

[Scan more information](#)

Be the voice of your community! Join Healthwatch Bedford Borough and volunteer to help improve local health and social care services. As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to make a real difference by sharing your experiences and feedback with NHS leaders and other decision-makers. You will also receive training and support to help you carry out your role effectively. Sign up today and become a part of our network of volunteers who are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our community.

[Find out more](#)

Stakeholder information

Villager Bus

Villager Bus (Sharnbrook) Ltd is a non-profit making organisation registered under the Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. We are run and operated by volunteers and provide transport facilities to town and village communities throughout North Bedfordshire via a scheduled timetable*.

We own and operate one bus which is designed for easy access. Anyone can use the Villager Bus and bus passes are accepted on all routes.

[Find out more](#)

FOCUS GROUP
IMMUNISATION IN CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Wednesday 22nd May
11:00 am-1:00 pm

Teach Room, at the Child Development Centre (CDC) in Kempston

Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum and NHS England are co-producing a focus group on Vaccinations in SEND Children. We are looking for parent carers of SEND children to share their views on immunisation and vaccinations.

- What stops you from getting your child immunised?
- What other support would you need to get your child immunised?
- What information would you like to know before getting your child immunised?

Join us at this focus group to share your experiences, insights, and ideas on what we can do differently to make getting a vaccination easier for you and your child. We will send a £15 voucher for those who attend and participate. Email us to book your place at enquiries@hwbpfb.org.uk

SEND Health Focus Week
June 2024

How to support your teenager preparing for adulthood and navigating SEND

10th June 1 - 2.30pm

Educate Empower Encourage

Find out more - www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/shfw24