

Healthwatch Engagement Programme: NHS Long Term Plan

Please find below more information further to [John Taylor's Yammer message](#) on Monday 14 January.

The NHS Long Term Plan requires each STP to produce a local plan later this year. The funding given to Healthwatch from NHS England provides extra capacity to engage local people to assist each STP to develop these implementation plans.

We have funding to offer every local Healthwatch - an engagement grant of £2500 - to undertake agreed activities in your area. We also wish to identify one local Healthwatch to act as the co-ordinating body within each STP and will offer an additional grant for this. John will be writing to you about this later this week. The co-ordinating Healthwatch will agree engagement priorities with the STP and will produce a report bringing together all the evidence and insight gathered by Healthwatch in that STP.

More details of the engagement grant are set out below. We want all local Healthwatch to participate in this opportunity to show the reach and strength of our network and to influence key local decisions about health and social care.

We're working as quickly as we can to ensure that we're able to provide information, resources and support to help you in this work and all of us at Healthwatch England thank you for your assistance and understanding.

What you need to do

1. Read and consider all the information enclosed within this email.
2. Respond back to me to confirm your intention to accept the £2500 engagement grant as detailed below, stating the name of your local Healthwatch and the legal company name of the provider of your Healthwatch service (if different) by **noon on 30 January**. Please c.c. grants@healthwatch.co.uk into your reply.
3. Look out for John's email about the co-ordination grant and respond in due course.

What happens next?

Once we have your reply, Healthwatch England will issue a Grant Agreement including a schedule of activities as described in this email. We will ask you to sign and return this in early February and we will then issue the full grant payment immediately.

More information on engagement grants

All engagement activities to take place between late February and mid May 2019

We expect the following engagement activities to take place in each local Healthwatch area:

1. 250 people to complete the Long Term Plan survey. Your local Healthwatch will analyse the results.
(Survey and analysis tool will be developed by Healthwatch England and can be adapted for local needs)
2. Identify and summarise your existing insight and evidence that is relevant for the Local Plan.
3. Carry out at least two public engagement events or focus groups involving a minimum of ten participants in each:
 - One with the general public
 - One with a specific group or community
 - Themes and topics will be locally agreed with the STP and Co-ordinating Healthwatch to reflect local needs, and you will use Healthwatch England's focus group toolkit
4. Carry out any other reasonable activities collectively agreed with your STP and co-ordinating Healthwatch.
5. Meet and work in partnership with other local Healthwatch in the STP area during the engagement period including assisting in monthly reporting to Healthwatch England and the STP.
6. Support the Co-ordinating Healthwatch to analyse your data, insight and findings by providing them in an agreed format, utilising tools provided by Healthwatch England.
7. If local circumstances require different engagement activities to those listed above, these must be agreed by Healthwatch England.

How we will support you

- Our national staff, including several secondments in policy, research and communications, will be available to assist and advise you when undertaking activities or analysing data.
- We will produce branded materials and templates to help you promote this work within your community and encourage engagement.
- We will produce a survey for you to use to collect people's views to ensure consistency in the quality of research.
- All Healthwatch England materials should be available in February and can be amended to reflect local needs.
- We will provide support via our research helpdesk to help you and will quality assure your analysis and draft report.
- Our Network Development Team will continue to provide support to you through usual mechanisms.

Whilst this particular funded activity seeks to support local health and social care systems to utilise public engagement and insight into their planning,

this in no way prevents Healthwatch England and local Healthwatch fulfilling their statutory functions which mandate independence.

Each STP will be responsible for demonstrating how they have taken account of local feedback and public engagement.

Possible questions you may have

My local Healthwatch covers more than one STP area. What do we do?

Limited funds means that there is only one engagement grant available to each local Healthwatch. Whilst some local Healthwatch are involved in more than one STP area, most can identify a primary locality. In these circumstances we ask that you use this Engagement grant to engage within your local area and then share your findings with the Co-ordinating Healthwatch for all relevant STPs, who will include your insights in the report to that STP.

How was the Engagement grant calculated?

We understand that some of you were hoping for larger grants to reflect local circumstances where different local Healthwatch represent vastly different sized and populated areas. As we are asking all local Healthwatch to undertake similar levels of engagement activities, we believe it is fairer to offer the same level of funding to all 148 local Healthwatch.