### **Together** we're making health and social care better



Annual Report 2022–23



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"In the last 10 years, the health and social care landscape has changed dramatically, but the dedication of local Healthwatch hasn't. Your local Healthwatch has worked tirelessly to make sure the views of local people are heard, and NHS and social care leaders use your feedback to make care better."

Louise Ansari, Healthwatch National Director

Cover image: Emphyrio/ Pixabay

### **Message from our Lead Officer**

## After a decade, the role of Healthwatch has never been more important

Helen Rushworth Lead Officer Healthwatch Bradford and District

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of Healthwatch as a national body, and a local champion for anyone using health and social care services. In 2013 the name may have been new, but whether through our predecessors the Local Involvement Networks – or before those the patient and public involvement forums – there has always been a desire to place the voice of those who use services at the heart of how they are designed and delivered.

I have worked in health and social care for more than 16 years. The NHS is a huge organisation, one of the largest employers in Europe, a recipient of significant public funding and as such is subject to frequent flux and change. Wikipedia has a page for "defunct national health organisations" which include, among others, district health authorities, strategic health authorities and hospital management committees.

When Healthwatch was introduced, the public were promised "no top-down reorganisation of the NHS". In reality it has been one of the most significant periods of change in the history of the NHS. In that first year, 2013, primary care trusts were swept away to be replaced by new clinical commissioning groups. Regional organisation through strategic health authorities was done away with, and decisions made locally or nationally.

Ten years on, little of that reform remains except Healthwatch. That is in itself, I think, testament to the great work we do, the commitment of our staff and volunteers and the willingness of the public to make themselves heard in the corridors of power.

Clinical commissioning groups have now gone and we have a new range of acronyms, from STP to ICS to ICB to ICP. Many people will not have noticed the shift in the way our **Continued on page 4** 

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#### **Continued from page 3**

services are delivered. At Healthwatch we have committed to making this information as accessible and clear as possible, fighting through the alphabet soup to ensure people have a clear picture of how the services they rely on are paid for and delivered.

We have also fought hard to ensure that people's voices and experiences are at the heart of these processes. We have been instrumental in the development of the complex governance structures that decide where your money goes and what services you receive. We have ensured that through us, your experience is heard at every key meeting of every key committee across the new West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and locally at Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership.

In fact, since the advent of this new era for the NHS in July 2022, Healthwatch Bradford and District has been placed better than ever to make your voices heard at the highest level.

I chair the Citizen Forum of Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership, and the forum's Listen In programme of community engagement has enabled our team to be on the ground in our communities, talking to local people, in a way that hasn't been possible since before the COVID pandemic.

Through Listen In, working with staff from across the Partnership, we're taking leaders from across the local health and care system out into our communities to hear directly from local people what's working for them in health and care and what needs to be improved. We've also been into a variety of health and social care settings including residential care homes.

Healthwatch is also embedded at a West Yorkshire level, and our team in Bradford has led on the development phase of West Yorkshire Voice, a regional network aimed at allowing everyone to be involved in a way that works for them and to amplify the voices of those experiencing the greatest health inequalities. Most recently, we've worked with Healthwatch colleagues across West Yorkshire on new arrangements for NHS dentistry.

In 2022-23 we've been asked by NHS England to use our expertise to find out what local people think about vaccines, and our report is helping to design engagement with minority groups who may be missing out on vital protection. One of our proudest achievements is working with our voluntary-sector groups across



Listening: We hear your experiences and help you find the support you need

Bradford, no matter how large or small, to capture the experiences of those people whose voices are so often not heard. Locally, we were asked by Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to consult patients and local people on what they want from virtual hospital services – we've been working on this through 2022-23 and we've just shared our report with the hospital trust.

But we've also been responding to the issues that you're telling us matter the most to you on a day-to-day basis. We hear queries from all over the district and make sure we signpost people to the help they need and in a way they understand. Your feedback on how the crisis in NHS dentistry is affecting you has been crucial in painting a stark picture for local NHS leaders to help guide improvements. We hear more feedback about local GP services than any other, and in addition to your dayto-day feedback in the past year, we've been consulting Bradford district residents on their experiences to shape an innovative project which should bear fruit later in 2023.

It's been a year of significant change, but we have continued to deliver and be at the very heart of both the structural changes and our communities. I see that as our key role – to be the bridge between the 600,000 people who make Bradford district what it is and the handful at the top who make the decisions that affect us all.

### About us

### Healthwatch Bradford and District is your local health and social care champion.

We make sure NHS leaders and decision-makers hear your voice and use your feedback to improve care. We can also help you to find reliable and trustworthy information and advice.



#### Our vision

A world where we can all get the health and care we need.



#### **Our mission**

To make sure people's experiences help make health and care better.



#### Our values are:

- Listening to people and making sure their voices are heard.
- **Including** everyone in the conversation especially those who don't always have their voice heard.
- **Analysing** different people's experiences to learn how to improve care.
- Acting on feedback and driving change.
- **Partnering** with care providers, Government and the voluntary sector serving as the public's independent advocate.

### Our year in review

#### **Reaching out**



#### 1,046 people

shared their experiences of health and social care services with us, helping to raise awareness of issues and improve care.

#### 292 people

came to us for clear advice and information about topics such as mental health and the cost-of-living crisis.

#### Making a difference to care

We published

#### 4 reports

about the improvements people would like to see to health and social care services.

Our most popular report was

#### Views on vaccines from South Asian communities

which highlighted the feelings of Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities in Bradford district about vaccines offered by the NHS.



• The Listen In programme carried out work in three communities in Bradford district in 2022-23 (Bradford South, Keighley and Bradford West) and a report was produced for each.

#### Health and care that works for you



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We're funded by our local authority. In 2022-23 we received

#### £180,000

which is the same as the previous year.

We currently employ

#### 4 staff

who help us carry out our work.

### Our digital year in review

Thousands of people have engaged with us online and on social media.

#### Our website - www.healthwatchbradford.co.uk



#### 19,536 page views

Thousands of people accessed news about local health and care services plus our advice and information articles.

#### Social media



#### **Twitter**

Our tweets were seen 122,047 times in 2022/23.

Our Twitter profile was visited **42,053 times** as people learned more about who we are and what we do.



#### Facebook

Our regular posts reached **20,517 people**.

Our targeted (paid) posts through Meta reached another **10,660 people** as we worked to engage people in Bradford district about their experiences of local GP services.



#### Instagram

Excluding the paid posts highlighted above, we engaged **537 people** with occasional image-based posts.

#### Newsletter

We issued **11** email newsletters, which were viewed a total of **4,301** times. Read/subscribe: **healthwatchbradford.co.uk/newsletters** 

### How we're making a difference Engaging with people and partners

Projects, surveys and sharing information

Working with our local partners

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Ensuring your views help design better virtual hospital services through surveys and visits to the wards



Hearing about your experiences of local GP practices in detail, in person and through surveys, and working with services to get answers to your feedback



Working with local Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities to make sure their views on vaccines inform NHS policies



Keeping you up to date with essential local health and care information through our website, social media, e-news and radio slots on BCB (106.6fm)



Working with Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership on Listen In, talking to our communities where they live



Supporting the development of Dying Matters workshops; we're also part of the Learning Disability and Neurodiversity Forum and Healthier Lives group



Joining forces with local charity Carers Resource to hear carers' experiences of home care provision (report to follow in 2023)



Leading initial development of West Yorkshire Voice, in partnership with other local Healthwatch in our region (Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield and North Yorkshire)

### How we're making a difference Working at a strategic level

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#### Working in our Place, Bradford district

**Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership** is responsible for making decisions about how the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) budget is used and services are delivered in our area, one of five "Places" covered by the ICB.

Healthwatch Bradford and District is a member of the Partnership Board and Citizen Forum (chaired by Healthwatch Bradford and District Lead Officer Helen Rushworth) plus Healthy Communities and the Quality Committee.

Within the local system we also sit on the:

- Bradford and Airedale Wellbeing Board
- Health & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Adult Safeguarding Board
- Care Home Improvement Board
- Access to Care Programme Board
- System Strategy Group

 Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Community Engagement Group

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#### Working in West Yorkshire

We work closely with our local Healthwatch colleagues in Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield and North Yorkshire on key issues and projects like NHS dentistry, West Yorkshire Voice and regional insight reports. Our managers and other staff meet monthly to share intelligence and resources. In addition, we sit on the following committees of NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board:

- Quality Committee
- Neurodiversity Programme Board



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"We seek to keep the people we serve at the heart of all that we do. Healthwatch help us to do just that, with research, insights and challenge gathered directly from local people. Healthwatch has worked with our public involvement team to enable our Board and staff to get out and about in communities to hear for ourselves the experiences of local people."

Elaine Appelbee, independent Chair of Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership Board



### 10 years of improving care

This year marks a special milestone for Healthwatch. Over the last 10 years, people have shared their experiences, good and bad, to help improve health and social care. A big thank-you to all our Healthwatch Heroes who have stepped up and inspired change. Here are a few of our highlights in Bradford district:





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"The work Warris has done with us has been crucially important to Healthwatch and the district as a whole. Not only has he ensured that voices that are too often overlooked have been heard by all those running health and social care, it has also meant those views have been at the heart of decisionmaking. We simply could not do what we do without the dedication commitment and passion of people like Warris."

Nigel Ayre, Delivery Lead, Healthwatch Bradford and District

### Healthwatch Hero

### Celebrating a hero in our local community – Warris Ali

"I have been working as a community development worker for the last 11 years and also community cinema development officer.

I am also involved in various other organisations like Highfield Food Coop, Inspire Highfield and Highfield Community Film Collective.

I was involved in the COVID-19 response team.

I also do community research and have produced a few reports on food and fuel poverty.

I am passionate about the work Healthwatch Bradford and District do around making sure that the voices of everyone, and especially minority groups, are heard particularly on sensitive issues.

Healthwatch never shy away from asking my community some very difficult questions as part of their work, particularly their recent projects covering sexual health and the very emotive and emotional end-of-life care project.

I am proud to have been able to help facilitate many of these conversations within the south Asian community in Bradford and Keighley."



# Listening to your experiences

Services can't make improvements without hearing your views. That's why over the last year we have made listening to feedback from all areas of the community a priority. This allows us to understand the full picture, and feed this back to services and help them improve.

### Virtual services at Bradford hospitals

Virtual services are ways of providing hospital-standard care to patients closer to where they live and often in their own home. They are designed to improve the care experience for patients and their families. It could be as simple as having your follow-up outpatient appointment by video or phone call. Or it may be that hospitals can use technology to monitor people at home rather than admit them to hospital for an overnight stay.

**Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** commissioned Healthwatch Bradford and District to independently engage inpatients and outpatients at Bradford Royal Infirmary, and the general public, in helping to design these services to ensure they meet the needs of our local communities.

#### What we did

During 2022-23, Healthwatch Bradford and District worked closely with the Bradford Royal Infirmary Director of Operations and their team to develop **three surveys**, each aimed at a different group of hospital users:

- Inpatients
- Outpatients
- The general public of Bradford and district

We then spent several days at the hospital talking to patients on the wards and in outpatients about their views on virtual services.

#### **Our recommendations**

Our report was shared with the hospital trust in May 2023. Highlighted recommendations, based on feedback from patients and the public, include:

• Virtual services should be used where appropriate and not as a replacement for more "traditional" hospital services.

• They should be implemented in a suitable way following an initial in-person meeting between clinician and patient, where possible. Such a preliminary appointment could involve going through a checklist for patients assessing factors such as the quality and reliability of their wi-fi signal, what devices are available to them and whether they have a landline and have access to a secure private space.

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"I like telephone appointments as it means that I don't have to leave the house and use public transport"

A member of a focus group of people with complex physical and mental health disabilities

### System Quality Learning Summit

Following an investigation related to the death of a mental health service user in Bradford district, a System Quality Learning Summit was called by Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership to look at the "systemic missed opportunities" in his integrated mental and physical health care as he moved through the system.

Healthwatch Bradford and District was approached to act as an independent facilitator of the discussion at the summit, to ensure the experiences of the patient and his family were kept front and centre. His daughter co-produced the themes for the summit, based on key moments in his care – including admission to and discharge from acute hospital care, discharge to a care home, care leading up to admission to an inpatient mental health unit and the patient contracting COVID and being transferred to general hospital.

#### What we did

• We developed a relationship with the patient's daughter and family, and worked with them to produce a powerful video highlighting the patient as a person, what he meant to his family and the effect his experiences and death has had on them – as well as the key themes in his care.

• We helped to plan and co-hosted the summit at a hybrid event in Bradford addressing about 30 lead healthcare and mental health professionals from across the local health and care system, looking at where things went wrong and what could be done better in future.

#### Impact

Key actions emerging from the summit include:

- Formal recognition of carers as partners in decision-making to inform care planning supported by staff training a shared approach across the system for involving carers.
- Reviewing quality of discharge paperwork and handovers to support seamless transition. Reviewing training on using compassionate and accessible language.
- Looking into joining up clinical systems to everyone involved in a person's care can see what is happening and what is needed.
- A shared approach to workforce development, training and skills.

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"I would like lessons to be learnt from our story and to ensure this does not happen to other service users and carers."

#### The patient's daughter



Over the past year we have worked hard to make sure we hear from everyone within our local area. We consider it important to reach out to the communities we hear from less frequently, to gather their feedback and make sure their voice is heard and services meet their needs.

#### This year we have reached different communities by:

- Empowering members of our South Asian communities to have honest conversations about their concerns around vaccines offered by the NHS, via focus groups and one-to-one conversations in their local communities.
- Supporting the organisation of an event aimed at raising awareness and improving conversations around death and dying for people with learning disabilities, their family and carers.

#### **Views on vaccines**

Healthwatch Bradford and District was commissioned by NHS England to engage members of South Asian communities in Bradford district on their current feelings about vaccines offered by the NHS.

Key questions included whether they currently receive or were planning to receive the annual flu vaccine, and whether they would be happy to receive both flu and COVID-19 vaccinations at the same appointment.

Participants in these conversations also discussed their health concerns, their knowledge of COVID-19 and flu, their confidence in the NHS and other public institutions to protect them from the impacts of COVID-19 and whether they trusted the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 and flu vaccines.



Views on vaccines from South Asian communities

October 2022

healthwetch Bradford and District

We heard that members of the Pakistani groups in general were offended and incensed by the use of imams in the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine, saying they felt "religiously manipulated". Although they said that despite this, once their imam gave their advice they did mostly follow it and get vaccinated.

#### Dying Matters event for people with learning disabilities

We were involved in organising this event aimed at raising awareness and improving conversations around death and dying for people with learning disabilities, their family and carers and the wider support providers who may come into contact with people with learning disabilities who are at end-of-life, or who may be grieving for someone who has died.

More than 100 people attended including at least nine family carers, more than 40 people with learning disabilities, 20 support staff and 20 clinicians. Followup sessions are planned.

Emotive and thought-provoking, inspiring, open and honest; I laughed and I cried – thank you

#### Feedback given by an attendee of the event





# Working together in West Yorkshire

The six local Healthwatch in West Yorkshire have collaborated for more than seven years, learning from each other, and coordinating activities. With new NHS decision-making at a West Yorkshire level, Healthwatch has ensured the people's voices and experiences are heard. The Integrated Care Board (ICB) recognised the crucial role of Healthwatch and created a role to coordinate West Yorkshire Healthwatch.

#### Together we have:

- Produced and shared reports about what people told us is important to them when accessing health and care services.
- Fed into the refresh of the five-year strategy
- Developed a people's panel for West Yorkshire.
- Held engagement sessions on key topics such as GP access and dentistry with members of the ICB.
- Represented Healthwatch on West Yorkshire boards and committees.
- Carried out work to find out about people's experiences of health and care services across West Yorkshire.

### In partnership with West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership and other local Healthwatch in West Yorkshire, we have...

#### Helped to shape the strategy refresh

Healthwatch played a key role in helping to refresh the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership five-year strategy. As part of the working group, we shared our insight report highlighting local people's issues.

This plan will shape how health and care services will work together to ensure people have long and healthy lives.

#### Launched West Yorkshire Voice

We developed and launched a people's panel called West Yorkshire Voice. This is a network that brings together local people and organisations to ensure their voice influences health and care decision-making.

We involved local people and organisations in helping shape what the panel should look like, how they would like to get involved and what it should be called.

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"As the independent champion for anyone using health and care services, Healthwatch is a key partner within WY HCP and ideally placed to do this essential work on our behalf. We really want to reach as many people as possible to make sure people's feedback and experiences of local services are heard at the highest level. This is ultimately all about making the right decisions and ones that make a positive difference to everyone's lives."

#### Cathy Elliott, Chair of the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

### Shared your voice at a West Yorkshire level

This has involved producing reports and videos, listening to and inviting people to come along and talk to members of the Integrated Care Board (ICB). Some of the topics covered have included:

• GP access

• Children and young people's mental health support

• NHS dental services

People's experiences have contributed to key discussions in the ICB meetings. We will also provide feedback on how this makes an impact.

### Listened to your experiences of palliative and end-of-life care

We looked at how well end-of-life care services are looking after people and what they can do better. We hope that the final report and people's stories will contribute to better services and support for everyone.

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"Across West Yorkshire, we are committed to learning from people experiencing palliative and end-of-life care. We are especially interested in hearing from people who may find it hard to access services and people experiencing health inequalities. We are so pleased Healthwatch, in partnership with our VCSE colleagues, is leading discussions about how support and services could be improved."

Charlotte Goulding, Palliative and End of Life Care Programme Manager, West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership



# Advice, information & feedback

If you feel lost and don't know where to turn, Healthwatch is here for you. In times of worry or stress, we can provide confidential support and free information to help you understand your options and get the help you need. Whether it's finding an NHS dentist, how to make a complaint or choosing a good care home for a loved one – you can count on us.

#### This year we've helped people by:

- Providing up-to-date information people can trust.
- Helping people access the services and support they need.
- Supporting people to look after their health during the cost-of-living crisis.

#### What people have told us during the year

2022-23 (75.3% of overall feedback was related to primary care)

These are the main topics of feedback and requests for information received by Healthwatch Bradford and District from April 2022 to March 2023.

#### **2021–22** (54.3%) **2020–21** (54.1%)

**2019-20** (45.8%)

This year, three quarters of all feedback received from members of the public (excluding focused surveys and engagement work) was concerned with **primary care**, significantly higher than last year.

#### **GP practices** (73.1%)

Of this feedback, nearly three quarters concerned GP practices. Dental practices represented just over one in four primary care comments ("Other" amounted to 0.3%).

Feedback/point of view (77.9%)

**Request for information** (19.8%)

Formal complaint/advocacy (5.9%)

People offering feedback or a point of view remained the primary type of contact received, while in 2022/23 there were far fewer requests for information – that proportion more than halved on the previous year, while formal complaint/ advocacy cases more than doubled as a proportion of overall contacts, from 2.1% in 2021-22.

### Sentiment of feedback received by Healthwatch Bradford and District in 2022-23

Negative (67.6%)		
<b>Positive</b> (29.6%)		
Neutral (1.8%)		
<b>Mixed</b> (0.8%)		

In 2022-23, more than two thirds of people who shared their views with us felt negatively about their experience. This is the highest proportion of the last four years.

We saw a slight increase in positive feedback, with a reduction in neutral. Feedback seems to have become more polarised in recent years, with very few mixed, neutral or unclear comments.

#### **Dentists** (26.6%)

# Volunteering

We're supported by amazing volunteers who are at the heart of what we do. Thanks to their efforts in the community, we're able to understand what is working and what needs improving.

This year our volunteers have helped us engage members of the public and local groups and supported us with data and feedback analysis for our reports to help ensure we're able to identify key trends and sentiments.

#### Linda, 67

I have really enjoyed volunteering with Healthwatch Bradford and District this year.

My mental health can sometime mean that I struggle to feel reliable, but being able to volunteer when I felt able gave me confidence and overall improved my health, both mental and physical.

Ultimately this gave me motivation to join other local groups and organisations and I now also have a small paid part-time job supporting a local charity.

#### Caloe, 22

I started volunteering for Healthwatch Bradford and District when I returned to the UK after working abroad.

Volunteering gave me a sense of purpose while I was unemployed and although health and care had never been an area I previously considered working in, through my time volunteering for Healthwatch I felt so proud of the work I was part of that I was inspired to look at health and care as employment avenues.

I am now extremely proud to be a full-time NHS waiting list coordinator working at my local hospital and love being able to help people every day.



#### Do you feel inspired?

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers, so please get in touch today.

- 🐼 www.healthwatchbradford.co.uk
- 🜭 0300 5610 987
- info@healthwatchbradford.co.uk

### **Finance and future priorities**

To help us carry out our work we receive funding from our local authority under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

#### Our income and expenditure

Income		Expenditure	
Funding received from local authority	£180,000	Expenditure on pay	£152,398
Additional income	£11,650	Operational costs	£13,164
		Support and administration	£9,412
		Transitional costs	£16,676
Total income	£191,650	Total expenditure	£191,650

Additional funding is broken down by:

- £2,750 funding received from Bradford Council for sexual health services work
- £3,500 funding received from Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for work on virtual hospital services
- £1,200 funding received from Healthwatch England for board recruitment
- £4,200 funding received from NHS England for vaccines work

#### Top three priorities for 2023-24

#### 1. Local GP services in Bradford district

We're working to ensure people's views and experiences are heard, and to engage local GPs to answer key questions and feedback

#### 2. Young people's mental health

Working with local schools and young people to understand what's affecting their mental health, where they find support and what additional support they need

#### 3. People's experiences of end-of-life care

Working with Healthwatch across West Yorkshire as part of a project commissioned by West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, and continuing with a deeper focus on Bradford district, working with local partners in the public and third sectors



# Statutory statements

Healthwatch Bradford and District, Cardigan House, Ferncliffe Road, Bingley, BD16 2TA, is part of the Infrastructure Support Organisation Community Action Bradford & District.

Healthwatch Bradford and District uses the Healthwatch Trademark when undertaking our statutory activities as covered by the licence agreement.

### The way we work

### Involvement of volunteers and lay people in our governance and decision-making

Our Healthwatch Board consists of 11 members who work on a voluntary basis to provide direction, oversight and scrutiny to our activities. Our Board ensures that decisions about priority areas of work reflect the concerns and interests of our diverse local community.

We ensure wider public involvement in deciding our work priorities. Through our regular community intelligence-gathering we produce monthly insight reports based on the information we receive and share this with our local commissioners, while we work with Healthwatch in Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield and North Yorkshire to provide insight from across West Yorkshire to West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership and NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board on key issues raised by the public, including NHS dentistry.

### Methods and systems used across the year to obtain peoples experiences

We use a wide range of approaches to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to provide us with insight about their experience of using services. During 2022/23 we have been available by phone, email, provided a webform on our website and through social media, as well as attending meetings of community groups and forums and conducting focus groups and online surveys.

We ensure that this annual report is made available to as many members of the public and partner organisations as possible. We will publish it on our website, through our social media platforms and our monthly email newsletter.

#### **Responses to recommendations**

We had no providers who did not respond to requests for information or recommendations. There were no issues or recommendations escalated by us to Healthwatch England Committee, so no resulting reviews or investigations.

#### Health and Wellbeing Board

Healthwatch Bradford and District is represented on the Bradford and Airedale Wellbeing Board by Helen Rushworth, Lead Officer. During 2022/23 our representative has effectively carried out this role by sharing insights about feedback received by Healthwatch about local health and care services, and providing information and insights about mental health support in local schools.



Healthwatch Bradford and District Cardigan House Ferncliffe Road Bingley BD16 2TA

www.healthwatchbradford.co.uk t: 0300 5610 987 e: info@healthwatchbradford.co.uk

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