

Information sheet for research project involving children and young people

About Healthwatch Norfolk:

Healthwatch Norfolk is the local consumer champion for all people using health and social care services. Healthwatch is an independent organisation, with a statutory remit to represent the views of the public on all NHS services, social care for children and families, adult social care and public health. It has a statutory voice, which it uses to influence and improve local health and social care services.

Healthwatch Norfolk's Children & Young People's Programme:

Healthwatch Norfolk's Board has made a commitment to engage with children and young people. As part of its Children & Young People's Programme, Healthwatch has recruited two young graduate researchers and one of them - Ed Fraser - has started a project on youth engagement through schools. Ed is also Healthwatch's Youth Health Ambassador and he will be helping to spread the message about Healthwatch and how young people can have a voice and make a difference to the future of their health and social care services.

Ed's research project:

Ed will be working with children in schools (aged 11-18) across the county throughout the summer term, listening to what Norfolk students have to say about their health and social care services; what they like, what they think needs improving and so on. The specific details about the research approach will not be finalised until the beginning of June, once the opinions of some students at the College of West Anglia and Dereham Sixth Form have been taken into account.

The general idea is that the project will take the form of class and/or group discussions focusing on health and social care issues affecting young people both locally and across Norfolk (where appropriate compared to national issues) and the students' experiences of their health and social care services. It is anticipated that the students will lead these discussions as far as possible. In addition to the qualitative information gained from this approach, quantitative data may be collected through a short and anonymous questionnaire form given to the children at the end of each session.

Impact:

The principal objective of this research project is to provide Healthwatch Norfolk with a very broad understanding of the views and experiences of children and young people (aged 11-18) across the county. This will enable Healthwatch to be more representative of that age group, giving younger people a voice when it comes to shaping the future of their health and social care services.

Additionally, for those children and young people who want to be more directly involved, Ed will provide information and guidance about how Healthwatch Norfolk can help them to make a difference, whether as a volunteer, or a member, or in another capacity.

Getting in touch:

For further information about this project please call Ed on **07467145203** or email him at **intern2@healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk**. If you would like to find out more about Healthwatch Norfolk in general, then please call the office on **01603813904** or email **enquiries@healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk**.

