

Welcome from our Chief Officer

Welcome to our February 2020 Newsletter. It was another busy month with the team out and about across the borough meeting with lots of groups and individuals to find out what matters most to them in terms of health and social care support.

Looking forward to sharing our findings from our Home Care Forums with you at our final forum on 30th March. Hope to see some of you there.

Kind Regards,

Abdul Mulla





Care at Home Forum #3

Our 3rd Care at Home Forum on 16th January 2020 was a huge success. Over 30 people attended to find out more information and ask questions about Personal Health Budgets & Direct Payments. Please see our [website](#) for the transcript from the event.



Care at Home Forum #4

On Monday 30th March we are holding our fourth and final 'Care at Home' Forum for 2019/20. This forum will look at everything that has been discussed in the previous forums and give people the opportunity to share their experiences and ask questions. To confirm your place or find out more, please contact us 01254 292686 or info@healthwatchbwdco.uk



Young activists recognised for speaking out on food poverty

Corey and Tia who joined with Healthwatch BwD in our work with Blackburn with Darwen Food Alliance were finalists at the One Voice Community Champions Award for Young Person of the Year. They made it through to the final four for their tireless work tackling food poverty and speaking truth to power on both a local and national level.



Engagement Practitioners Network

Healthwatch BwD took part in the launch of the NHS Public Engagement Practitioners Network. It was fantastic to meet colleagues from across the country championing to ensure that people and communities are able to inform, influence and be involved in how our health and care system delivers for them and their families.

Find out more about the network [here](#).



Celebrating Blackburn College students

It was great to take part in Blackburn College's Employer Celebration Event. Wonderful to see the range of local businesses supporting students on their journey into employment.

We're really proud to have James and Miro on work placement with us supporting the team with admin and graphic design.



Podcast Workshops at Blackburn Museum

We've been delighted to support artist Paul Nataraj carrying out interviews with residents from Whalley Range as part of BwD Council's 'Kick Down the Barriers' project. Join Paul in workshops over Easter at Blackburn Museum in which you can create and edit your own podcasts. Find out more [here](#).

Disability Information Day

Come along to Blackburn Sports and Leisure Centre on Thursday 19th March to find out what services and support is available for residents with disabilities in the borough. Our Healthwatch team will be there so come along and say hello!

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