

healthwatch

Blackburn with Darwen

Welcome to our Winter 2021 newsletter.



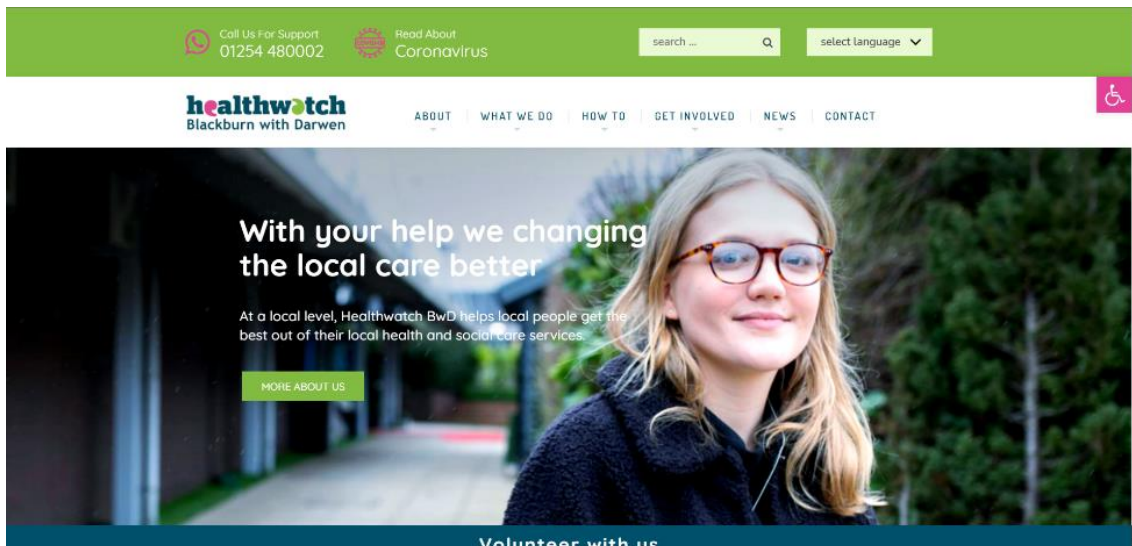
Dear all,
I hope this newsletter finds you well during these continuing uncertain times. We're pleased to share updates with you on what the team have been busy with over the last few months and we are keen to learn from you what you see as the health and social care priorities we should focus on next year. Have a wonderful

festive break with family and friends and here's to a wonderful 2022.

Sarah Johns

Chief Officer

We have a new website!



We are pleased to launch our brand new website for 2022. Here you will find our annual & project reports, you can meet the team and see what our priorities are for the coming year. Have your say, leave feedback on how we performed and much more here

www.healthwatchblackburnwithdarwen.co.uk.

BwD Council Leader and Director of Public Health on the Governments Plan B

Following the government's decision to trigger additional Plan B measures, Blackburn with Darwen's Council Leader and Director of Public Health are urging residents to observe the new rules. These are detailed below -

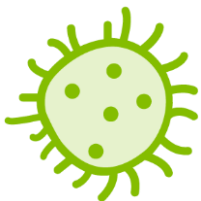
From Friday 10 December, mandatory face covering rules are extended to most indoor settings (but will not include hospitality).

From Monday 13 December, the guidance is for people to work from home if they can.

Anyone who cannot work from home should continue to travel to their workplace.

And from Wednesday, 15 December mandatory Covid passes will be introduced for nightclubs and settings where large crowds gather – including unseated indoor event with 500 or more attendees, unseated outdoor events with 4,000 or more attendees and any event with 10,000 or more attendees. A Covid pass shows how many Covid vaccinations someone has had, or a recent negative Covid test result.

You can read more in the Council's Shuttle article [here](#)



Booster Vaccine booking now open for people over 40

People aged 40 and over and people in high risk groups can now book their Covid booster jab three months after their second dose.

Booking opened today, Wednesday, December 8th, through the NHS vaccine programme.

People in these groups now don't have to wait six months after their second dose to top up their protection and can book the booster if it will be three months from their second dose when the booster appointment takes place.

People can get their vaccine by booking online through the National Booking Service or by calling 119, and GP practices are also inviting those who are eligible.

The booking service can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3rNbgo4>

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3rLQ4P3>



Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen 2022/23 Workplan

We would love to hear from you about what you feel are priority areas of focus for health and social care organisations in the coming year to help shape our 2022/23 workplan. Here's a link to our survey to share your views - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LBZ5N9Y>

Thank you!

Enter & View Update

The Enter and View programme continues to gather pace and embed with services supporting the public's experience of care. Quarterly meetings with local CQC inspectors have been instituted to share updates and good practice. This overview serves to inform the residents of Blackburn with Darwen, and ensure that their voices are heard in this increasingly difficult debate.

Likewise, the team have started to build positive relationships with managers and providers in the care sector with our Enter and View team receiving positive feedback from the manager of Oldfield House. The manager told us that she was "happy" with our visit describing it as "nice and friendly" and "happy to welcome back anytime."

Visits have also been carried out at Andrews Court Care Home and Birchfield Care Home in Blackburn. The reports can be viewed in full on our website here [Enter & View – Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen](#)



If you are interested in becoming an Enter & View Representative for us then get in touch, full training and ongoing support will be given. [Become Enter and View Representative – Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen](#)

Lancashire and South Cumbria Hospitals Programme

Our local NHS trusts are working with health and community organisations to bring new hospitals and better hospital services to our entire area. Some of our hospitals will have new facilities and refurbishments and we want to link all our region’s hospitals using digital technology to offer the best treatment and care closer to people’s homes wherever possible. If you would like to get involved visit [Lancashire and South Cumbria New Hospitals Programme](#)

Lancashire & South Cumbria
New Hospitals
Programme





Share your views of Emergency Departments and Urgent Treatment Centres here!

Here at Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen we have been working with our colleague at Healthwatch in Blackpool, Lancashire and Cumbria are working with the NHS to find out your experiences of accessing emergency departments/urgent treatment centres recently.

We want to support them with informing their winter plans and are interested in feedback on your recent attendance, to feed into local insights.

Completing this survey will be an opportunity for you to have your say and shape developments locally.

<https://lnkd.in/dky8iF2H>

Can't find the support you need?

Healthwatch is here for you. In times of worry or stress, we can be there to find you the best place to go for help, find the health and social care information that you need or advise on how to make a complaint or where to go for extra support. Get in touch here...

<https://tinyurl.com/tucn94w3>

Healthwatch Network Awards 2021

We were thrilled to have received an award at the Healthwatch Network Awards 2021 for our work with our Healthwatch Together partners for *Working With our Integrated Care System*



We are expanding our team and have a vacancy for an Information Signposting & Volunteering Officer coming up in the New Year.

Keep an eye on our website for further information. [Job Vacancies – Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen](#)

and last but not least... Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Board and Team at Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen

