



August 2017

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen Newsletter

About us

Healthwatch gives people a powerful voice locally & nationally. At a local level, Healthwatch BwD helps local people get the best out of their local health & social care services.

Whether it's improving them today, or helping to shape them for tomorrow, Healthwatch BwD is all about local voices being able to influence the delivery & design of local services.



Spotlight on A&E

We are shining a spotlight on A&E and want to hear your views & experiences of attending A&E, admission & discharge. We will be in A&E weekly listening to your views, you will also be able to share your experiences online via our website.



Healthwatch Conference

Ben Pearson, Project Manager & Sharon Hardman Enter & View and Volunteer Coordinator both attended the Healthwatch Conference in Nottingham in July. This was a great opportunity to share ideas & learning with colleagues from across the country, while attending a variety of workshops & lectures to explore new ways of working & find out about the current issues affecting the health & care landscape.

Amplify Chair & Co Chair Appointed

We are excited to announce the appointment of Amelia Walker as Amplify Chair & Blake Maxwell as Amplify Co-Chair. They will take a lead alongside Ben Pearson, Project Manager in developing the Amplify project, co-designing & delivering the project with Amplify Champions across Blackburn with Darwen.

Amelia said 'I'm extremely grateful & excited for the opportunities that Healthwatch have given me, I'm looking forward to helping the Amplify project grow & being involved in a range of projects which will make a difference to children & young people'



New Office Manager

Jan Nuttall joined us in June as our new Office Manager. Jan comes with a wealth of experience in the third sector having previously worked for a domestic violence charity. She's been busy implementing new systems & processes to ensure the smooth running of the organisation.



Future in Mind Event

Amplify Champions attended the CAMHS Future in Mind Event on Thursday 8th June at Walshaw House in Nelson, presenting to over fifty professionals from across Lancashire. They received excellent feedback on the work they had been involved in & partnerships were identified for upcoming projects. They also took part in workshops & networked with others attending. Amplify Champions will continue to influence Childrens & Young peoples services across Lancashire.



Stonewall Education for All Conference

Amplify Champions Jazmyn & Tia from Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio attend the Stonewall Education for All Conference as part of our LGBTQ project delivered in partnership with Blackburn Youth Zone.

‘The trip was educational as we got to travel and visit a university I now think we would both challenge stigma around the LGBTQ community’

Since the trip Jazmyn & Tia along with other Amplify Champions have delivered several workshops in schools to raise awareness & challenge stigma. A new LGBTQ group has also been set up at Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio, this is in addition to Blackburn Youth Zones LGBTQ Group that runs every Tuesday 6pm.

Jazmyn & Tia also completed the most volunteer hours between April-June, a total 44 hours each!

Amplify Champions attend LSCB

Amplify Champions facilitated workshops with young people to gather their views on abuse, exploring how awareness can be raised & they can be protected. A report was produced which they presented at both the Safeguarding Communications & Engagement Committee & the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board. Those in attendance were asked what they would do to involve young people & how they would make the lives of young people safer. Responses will be followed up later in the year.



Homeless Report Launch

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen launched their Homeless Report on Wednesday 12th July at Nightsafe’s Cornfield Cliffe, where commissioners, those working with the homeless population, volunteers & participants were able to meet & discuss findings. Over forty people attended, enjoying a BBQ in the sunshine.

Over 250 people experiencing Homelessness took part in the project, sharing their views & experiences on local health & care provision. Some of the main findings included a lack of mental health provision, barriers to accessing services & a lack of 1-1 support for individuals.

Commissioners & service providers were asked to respond to recommendations, Healthwatch BwD will then follow these up in six months time to hold them to account & ensure changes are in progress to improve the health & wellbeing of the homeless community.

Ben Pearson Project Manager said ‘this has been a hugely rewarding piece of work & I would like to thank

all those who have been involved. I am excited to see what changes the report will have on local provision and will be eager to follow up on recommendations later in the year.'

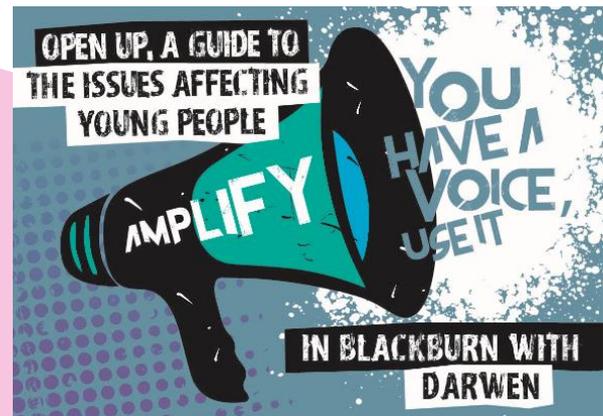
Healthwatch BwD are delivering various projects over the coming year, including a project exploring the views & experiences of those who've offended and another engaging with residents attending A&E at Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital.



Social Cinema

As part of our Social Cinema project we took a group of young people to see 'My Life as a Courgette' at HOME in Manchester. The film tells the story of an orphan & his experience in a children's home, and allowed us to facilitate discussions about serious issues affecting young people in a fun & accessible way.

'We really enjoyed the cinema trip as the situations in the film were serious but it showed it in more of a simpler view so young people could understand. This film could be good to show children in a school where maybe children are being bullied for coming from a different background.'



'Open Up' Booklet published

Amplify Champions facilitated workshops with over 250 young people to identify the key issues affecting children & young people in Blackburn with Darwen. They then designed the booklet which has just been published & will be distributed by young people over summer. Copies will also be given out to schools in September.

The resource raises awareness of the key issues affecting children & young people while providing information on where they can access information & support.

Annual Report

Our annual report is now available on our website, if you would like a hard copy please get in touch. Have a read to find out more about our achievements in 2016/17.

Public Board Meeting

Our next Public Board Meeting is on **Wednesday 9th August 2-4pm** at Kings Court. Find out more about the work of the organisation, ask a question & find out how you can get involved.

Your View Your Voice - Older People & Frailty

Are you an older person living in Blackburn with Darwen or a family member supporting someone with frailty? Do you feel supported by local health & care services? What's working well for you & where would you like to see changes? Join us on **Monday 4th September 2-4pm at Your Support Your Choice**, have a brew & share your view, while influencing change now & for the future.

Contact

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Follow us on Twitter & Facebook @HealthwatchBwD @amplifybwd

Healthwatch BwD AGM

Join us on **Wednesday 8th November 2-4.30pm** at Blackburn Central Library, more details to follow, register now to avoid disappointment!

Volunteer Farewell

Alwyn & Fiona are leaving Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen after several years volunteering, we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution & wish them well in future ventures.