

Healthwatch Portsmouth privacy statement, October 2021

This Privacy Statement sets out the data processing practices carried out by Healthwatch Portsmouth. We retain and use personal data (information that relates to and identifies living people) to help us carry out our role as the local independent champion for people who use health and social care services.

Find out more about our purpose and what we do
<http://healthwatchportsmouth.co.uk/general-information>

We will always make sure that your information is protected and treated securely. Any information that you give will be held in accordance with:

- Data Protection Act 2018
- Healthwatch Portsmouth is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office under the registration of its host organisation, The Advocacy People, registration no. Z9231372.

Read our Information Governance Policy

[Information Governance and Data Protection Policy](#)

We also make our Information Asset Register available for people to read to give further clarity about how data relating to them is managed and kept secure. This includes our retention schedule and clear details about the lawful basis for storing and keeping personally identifiable information.

Read our Information Asset Register [Information Asset Policy](#)

Information we collect

We collect personal information from visitors to this website through the use of online forms and every time you email us your details. We also collect feedback and views from people about the health and social care services that they access. In addition, we receive information about our own staff and people who apply to work for us.

- Information about people who use our website [Information Asset Policy](#)
- Information about people who share their experiences with us by other means [Information Asset Policy](#)
- Information about our own staff and people applying to work for us [Information Asset Policy](#)

Security

We are strongly committed to data security and we take reasonable and appropriate steps to protect your personal information from unauthorised access, loss, misuse, alteration or corruption.

We have put in place physical, electronic, and managerial procedures to safeguard and secure the information you provide to us.

Only authorised employees and contractors under strict controls will have access to your personal information.

Information about people who use our website

Please note that this statement does not cover links within this website to other websites.

When you browse through the information on this website, it does not store or capture your personal information. We do log your IP address (as it is automatically recognised by the web server) but this is only so you can download this website onto your device rather than for any tracking purpose; it is not used for any other purpose.

We will only collect personal information provided by you, such as:

- feedback from surveys and online forms
- email addresses
- phone numbers
- preferred means of communication.

Cookies

Please be aware that some systems on our website require the use of cookies, but we will always state if this is the case. We will never collect and store information about you without your permission.

Find out more about our use of Cookies [Cookies | Healthwatch](#)

How we will use your personal information

Personal information about you can be used for the following purposes:

- in our day-to-day work;
- to send you our newsletter where you have requested it;
- to respond to any queries you may have;

- to improve the quality and safety of care.

This may include any personal information that you choose to share with us, but we will treat this as confidential and protect it accordingly.

We will never include your personal information in survey reports.

Signing up to our newsletter: our use of Mailchimp

We use a third-party supplier (www.Mailchimp.com) to provide our newsletter service. By subscribing to this service you will be agreeing to them handling your data.

The third-party supplier handles the data purely to provide this service on our behalf. This supplier follows the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 in how they obtain, handle and process your information and will not make your data available to anyone other than Healthwatch.

Information about people who share their experiences with us by other means

There are a number of ways that we collect feedback from people about their experiences of using health and social care services day to day. Our staff will visit different health and social care settings as part of their role to evaluate how services are being delivered. We also receive phone calls and requests for information directly from members of the public as part of our signposting service. We also now receive information via a variety of social media channels, but always advise against sharing information in a public forum and will remove it if required.

Where personally identifiable information is collected we will ensure that we have your consent to keep it and we will be clear on how we intend to use your information. We will aim to anonymise information where we can but there may be instances where this is not possible in order to make change happen on your behalf.

There may be exceptional circumstances where we can and will keep the data without consent but we must have a lawful basis for doing so, such as for safeguarding purposes or if we believe you or someone else may be committing a serious criminal offense or a court says we have to.

We ensure that where consent is required it will be freely given, used only for agreed specific and unambiguous purposes and that you are well informed about how the information will be kept. This includes where it will be stored, details on security and for how long it will be kept. We will comply with current data protection legislation at all times.

Personal information may be collected with your consent through:

- Our signposting and advice service
- When we receive feedback by phone, outreach work or through surveys
- Enter and View activity
- Events and focus groups

Personal data received from other sources

On occasion we will receive information from the families, friends and carers of people who access health and social care services. We use this data to inform providers and commissioners to help them deliver services that work for you.

Where it is practically possible, we will make sure that we have your consent to use information that is about you. We will only process your personal data where there is a lawful basis to do so under current data protection legislation.

Publishing information

In most circumstances we anonymise our data to ensure that a person cannot be identified unless this has been otherwise agreed and consent has been given.

Sharing your data with Healthwatch England

We are required to share information with Healthwatch England to ensure that your views are considered at a national level. This enables them to analyse service provision across the country and supply the Department of Health and national commissioners with the information you provide.

[Find out more about Healthwatch England's purpose and what they do.](#)

The information we provide to Healthwatch England contains no personally identifiable data. Any information that is used for national publications is anonymised and will only be used with the consent of a local Healthwatch.

Our data systems

Healthwatch England provides a secure digital system for local Healthwatch to manage their data. Other organisations process the data contained within it on behalf of local Healthwatch and a Data Processing Agreement is in place to ensure that this is held securely and according to current data protection legislation.

Healthwatch England is a committee of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) but acts independently. These organisations must comply with all legal requirements and do not reuse any data for any other reason or make it available to others.

Information about our own staff and people applying to work with us

We need to process personal data about our own staff (and people applying to work for us) so that we can carry out our role and meet our legal and contractual responsibilities as an employer.

The personal data that we process includes information about racial or ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender and sexuality. We use this information to check we are promoting and ensuring diversity in our workforce and to make sure we are complying with equalities legislation.

Our employees decide whether or not to share this monitoring data with us and can choose to withdraw their consent for this at any time. Employees who wish to withdraw their consent for us to process this data can let us know.

Other personal data that we are required to process includes information on qualifications and experience, pay and performance, contact details and bank details.

We check that people who work for us are fit and suitable for their roles. This may include asking people to undertake [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#) checks.

People joining Healthwatch Portsmouth will be asked to complete a 'declaration of interests' form to identify any services with which they have close links (for example, because they have previously worked there or because the service is run by a close relative) or any other issues which could cause a perceived conflict of interest. Staff are regularly asked to update these forms.

[Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

[Declaration of Interest Form](#)

We also publish some information about our staff, including the names and work contact details of people in some roles.

How we share information with other organisations

We only share personal information with other organisations where it is lawful to do so and in accordance with our Information Governance Policy. Information is shared in order to fulfil our remit which is to pass on your experiences of care to help improve them on your behalf.

We work with Healthwatch England, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), local commissioners, NHS Improvement and our local authority to make this happen. We can also engage external suppliers to process personal information on our behalf.

We will only disclose your personal information where we have your consent to do so, or where there is another very good reason to make the disclosure - for example, we may disclose information to CQC or a local authority where we think it is necessary to do so in order to protect a vulnerable person from abuse or harm. Any such disclosure will be made in accordance with the requirements of the current data protection legislation.

Wherever possible, we will ensure that any information that we share or disclose is anonymised, so as to ensure that you cannot be identified from it.

We sometimes use other organisations to process personal data on our behalf. Where we do this, those companies are required to follow the same rules and information security requirements as us, outlined in a Data Processing Contract. They are not permitted to use reuse the data for other purposes.

Retention and disposal of personal data

We comply with our host organisation's privacy policy which includes how they retain and dispose of personal data. [Privacy Policy | The Advocacy People](#)

This policy explains how long we keep different types of records and documents for, including records and documents containing personal data. Personal data is deleted or securely destroyed at the end of its retention period. We :

- Keep your information up to date, when necessary.
- Only keep your information for as long as we need it, after which it will be destroyed.
- Protect your information from unauthorised or accidental disclosure.
- Provide you with a copy of your personal information on request.
- Correct inaccurate or misleading data as soon as possible.

Your rights

By providing us with your personal information, including sensitive information such as medical details, you consent to the collection and use of this information in accordance with the purposes described in our Privacy Policy.

We take appropriate measures to ensure that the personal information disclosed to us is kept secure, accurate, and up to date. We will ensure that your personal information is kept only for so long as is necessary for the purposes for which it was collected and is securely destroyed in accordance with our data retention and disposal policy - see our Data Protection Policy.

You have the right to see what personal data we hold about you and to request a copy.

You have a right to object to the processing your personal information, or for any information held about you to be corrected. Such a request should be made in writing and we will take steps to amend, or to delete your identifying information and stopping processing your data. However, we may retain other information that cannot specifically be used to identify you and are required to do this for contractual and compliance reasons.

Our contact details and key roles

To request a copy of your personal data or make any other enquiry under this policy contact Siobhain McCurrach, Healthwatch Portsmouth Manager

siobhain.mccurrach@healthwatchportsmouth.co.uk

Telephone: 023 9354 1510

Healthwatch Portsmouth, The Bradbury Centre, 16-18 Kingston Road, Portsmouth PO1 5RZ.

Or you may contact directly our host organisation The Advocacy People who are contractually responsible for Healthwatch Portsmouth. The Data Protection Officer is John Vago, ICT Director, The Advocacy People, and can be contacted at info@theadvocacypeople.org.uk. The Advocacy People acts as data controller for the personal data that you provide Healthwatch Portsmouth.

Complaints about how we look after or use your information

If you feel that we have not met our responsibilities under data protection legislation, you have a right to request an independent assessment from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). You can find details [on their website](#).

Ends 29.10.21
Healthwatch Portsmouth