



Youthwatch Rochdale - What's it all about?

Q. Who are Healthwatch Rochdale?

A. Healthwatch Rochdale are the independent voice for local residents, we challenge and influence health and social care services and organisations within the Rochdale borough.

Q. What is Youthwatch?

A. Youthwatch Rochdale is a new initiative for young people between the ages of 13 and 18 years old who are a resident of the Rochdale borough.

We are looking for young people to engage and volunteer with us to gather feedback and hold discussions on health and social care services that young people can, or in some cases, cannot access.

Eg: DENTIST DOCTOR HOSPITAL OPTICIAN CLINICS A & E PHARMACIST SCHOOL NURSE

Youthwatch Rochdale is also about ensuring that we can empower young people to use their voice and can make their voices heard.

The Aim of Youthwatch:

To engage the youth of Heywood, Middleton, Rochdale North, Rochdale South and the Pennines on health and social care matters. Giving them greater voice and inclusion.

Q. Who can join Youthwatch Rochdale?

A. Broadly speaking, Youthwatch membership is open to individual young people who meet both of the following requirements:

- They live within, or access health or care services, in the Rochdale borough
- They are aged between 13 and 18 years old

It may also be beneficial if you have an added interest in pursuing a career in, or have been a service user of health and social care within the borough.



Q. What does Youthwatch do?

A. Youthwatch Rochdale does three main things:

- Engages with their local community to gather feedback, ensuring that everybody's health and social care needs are being met.
- Ensure that breadth of opinion is sought from young people to represent the diversity of the Rochdale borough.
- Empowers young people of the Rochdale borough.

Alongside this they assist Healthwatch Rochdale by:

- Engagement event planning for children and young people once Covid restrictions allow.
- Assisting with outreach activities in the community to share information, advice and signposting to services
- Working co-productively to create questionnaires, surveys, poster and leaflets.
- Be involved with awareness raising of Youthwatch through social media - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, Healthwatch Rochdale website.
- Help create short videos to engage young people in our organisation.
- Gather feedback from their schools, family and friends around health and social care across the Rochdale Borough



Q. What's in it for Youthwatch members?

- Incentive programme - vouchers for getting involved on a regular basis
- Develop a variety of skills
- Build your understanding of health and social care services
- Boost aspirations
- Certificates of recognition
- Being part of a valued team of young people
- Build up your CV
- Being able to have a say on local health and social care services
- Training opportunities
- Help to support the improvement of services specifically for young people

Q. What do Youthwatch members need?

A. Volunteer members of Youthwatch need a mixture of knowledge and skills. The knowledge, skills, experiences, personalities and range of backgrounds will vary with each member, and this will meaningfully contribute to ensure a diverse group of young people to represent the Rochdale borough.

Youthwatch Rochdale members need a passion for improvement and be keen to make a difference to their community.

I enjoy being a part of Youthwatch Rochdale as I feel like I get listened to and I can go back to my school and tell them things that they may find useful, or surveys that they can do to make sure that young people are being heard.

Youthwatch Member, Middleton, Age 15



Q. What is expected from Youthwatch members?

A. We expect Youthwatch members to be committed to gathering views, opinions and feedback on health and care services from young people in Rochdale North, Rochdale South, Heywood, Middleton and the Pennines.

In addition to this, there are some specific expectations:

- Commitment to the post - We ask that Youthwatch members are committed to their voluntary role at Healthwatch Rochdale for a minimum of three months.
- Attendance and participation in Youthwatch meetings - The Youthwatch group will meet the second Tuesday of each month for 1 hour, at 6:30pm virtually via Zoom.
- Participation in Youthwatch training and development activities, these will also build on life skills and can be added to CVs.
- Encouraging feedback from local young people on their experiences of health and social care services throughout the Rochdale Borough.
- Acting as an ambassador for Healthwatch

Q. How will Youthwatch members be supported?

A. All new Youthwatch members will complete a simple induction programme, this will help them to understand what they are expected to do and what their role is as a member of Youthwatch. It also gives Healthwatch Rochdale a chance to get to know you better. This will be done virtually via Zoom.

The Healthwatch Rochdale designated Volunteer and Involvement Officer is always available to support Youthwatch members, especially those who are new to their role.

We will also ensure that your time spent volunteering with Healthwatch Rochdale is logged so that you can build towards targets for incentives and certificates.

Questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact the Healthwatch Rochdale Team if you have further questions, for a recruitment pack or want to have your say around health and social care services for young people:

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