

News from the HealthWatch Advisory Group

Number 2. 16 August 2011.



This is the second newsletter from the **HealthWatch Advisory Group**.



HealthWatch is the new name for organisations that help patients and the public speak up about health and social care.



The **Advisory Group** says how HealthWatch should work in England.



This Newsletter has information about what is happening.



Please use this information to tell your members, or other people you work with about HealthWatch.

Latest News



HealthWatch pathfinders

75 local HealthWatch pathfinders have been set up.



Pathfinders are groups who will work out how to do things before more HealthWatch groups are set up.



The government Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said this is a big step towards making sure people who plan and pay for NHS services listen to patients and carers in their area.



You can find out more about the Pathfinders on the Department of Health website:



www.tinyurl.com/HWPathfinders

‘HealthWatch: Strengthening People’s Voices in Health and Social Care’



This is the name of a new paper about how HealthWatch will give people a say in local health and social care.



You can get a copy from the **HealthWatch online community**.



The **community** is a website where you can say what you think about setting up HealthWatch.



Later in this newsletter we tell you how to join the community.

August 2011



Asking what people think about funding HealthWatch

We will send out a paper in August about different ways local HealthWatch can get money.

October 2011



People have until the end of October 2011 to say what they think.



Where did HealthWatch come from?

LINKs or Local Involvement Networks help local people and groups to work together to make health and social care services better.



LINKs will become Local HealthWatch.



This will make them stronger when they:

- help patients and the public speak up about health and social care



- make sure people who plan and pay for NHS services listen to patients and carers.



A new organisation called **HealthWatch England** will be part of the Care Quality Commission (CQC).



The Care Quality Commission check all health and adult social care services in England.



These changes are in the process of becoming part of a law called the Health and Social Care Bill. You can find out more about this law on this website:

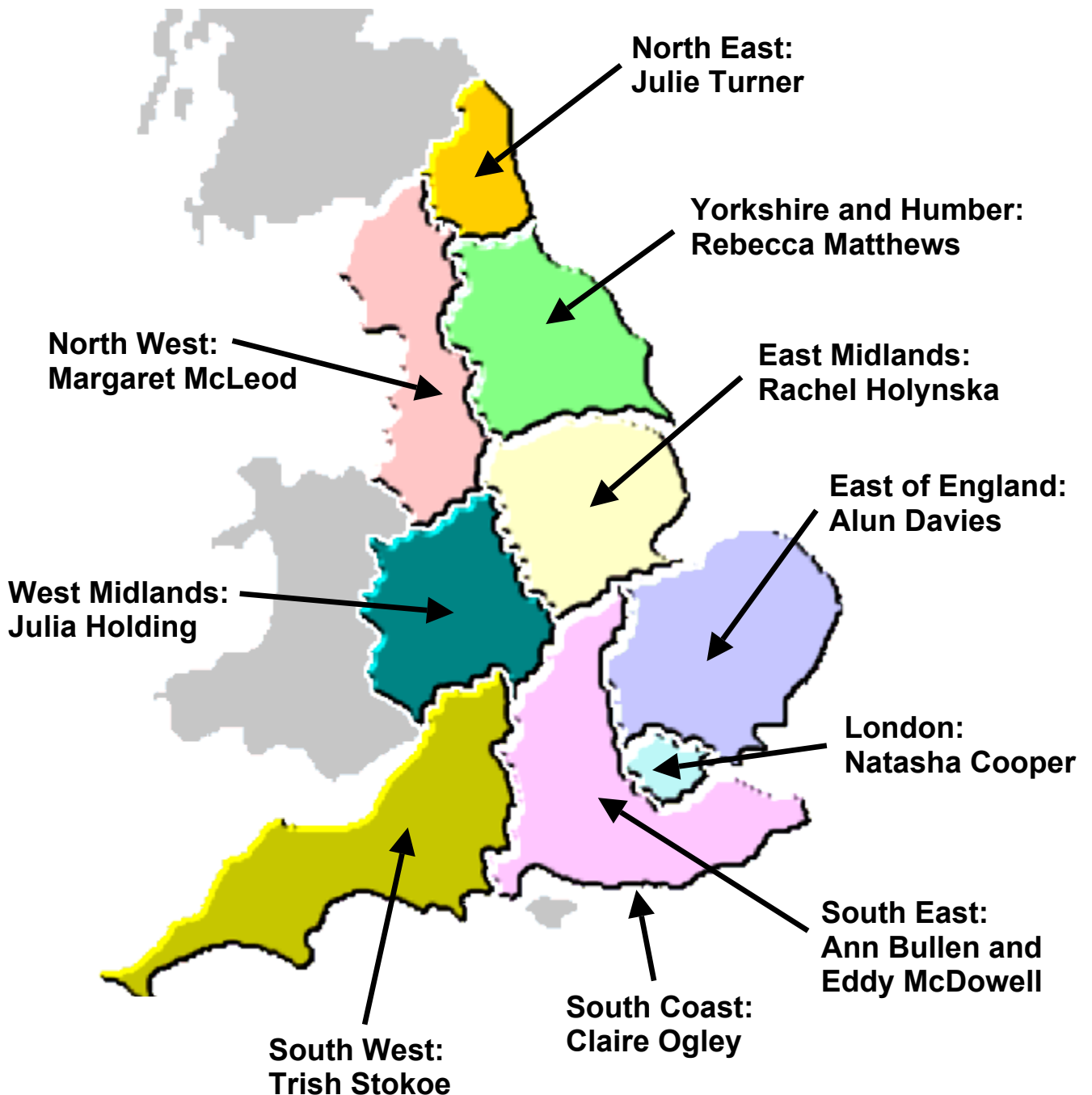
www.tinyurl.com/HSCbill

Important things for Local HealthWatch groups



There will be a meeting in September for people who are leading HealthWatch in each area.

You can find out more from your local coordinator:



What the HealthWatch advisory group has been doing



We have 5 different groups to look at things we need to do to set up HealthWatch.

How HealthWatch England will be set up and work

This group have looked at how HealthWatch England can:



- speak for patients and the public – not services



- pass on ideas from patients to the right people



- be trusted and respected by everyone they work with



- make sure everyone has an equal chance to be involved.

Why we need Local HealthWatch

This group came up with the idea for these newsletters and have looked at:



- how to tell people about HealthWatch services



- how Local Healthwatch groups will be independent companies that can act for themselves



- the new advocacy service to help people complain about the NHS



- rules about members of Local HealthWatch



- how councils will buy services from Local HealthWatch



- what money and support LINks need to become Local HealthWatch.

Making a good local HealthWatch

This group has written a plan about what Local HealthWatch should be doing by 2015:



- helping people get involved in planning and checking health services



- giving people information to help choose health services



- finding out what patients and the public think



- giving this information to services and saying how to change things



- telling HealthWatch England what people think and saying if the Care Quality Commission need to look into things.

Involving people and telling them about HealthWatch



An organisation called Spencer du Bois is helping this group with telling people about HealthWatch.



We are involving people through an online community. The **community** is people who take part in the forum with:

- **tasks** where we ask people to do different things



- **opinion polls** where we ask what people think



- **discussion forums** where you can chat to other people in the community



- **the Library** where you can find lots of different papers about HealthWatch.



If you would like to join, please email:
healthwatch@nunwood.com

Working with local councils



This group wrote a paper about LINks and local councils working together while things change.

They are also:



- writing a paper about how local councils can buy services from HealthWatch



- thinking about ways to make sure everyone is ready for Local HealthWatch



- looking at the skills and experience Local HealthWatch staff and volunteers will need



- looking at how Local Healthwatch groups can be set up as independent companies.

Getting involved in HealthWatch



The Care Quality Commission and Department of Health are working together to set up HealthWatch.



There is information about the groups doing this on the Care Quality Commission website:



www.cqc.org.uk



There is more information about the government's ideas for changes to the NHS on the Department of Health website:



www.healthandcare.dh.gov.uk



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