

**Young People's Health
Panel Volunteer
Role Description**



Introduction to Healthwatch Southwark

Healthwatch Southwark was established in April 2013 as the new health and social care consumer champion in the borough representing residents, service users, carers and organisations within Southwark.

We listen to the needs and experiences of Southwark residents on health and social care services and use those experiences to influence the professionals who plan, buy and deliver services so that they can be improved.

For more information on Healthwatch Southwark, please visit our website:

www.healthwatchesouthwark.org

Benefits of volunteering

As a volunteer, you will support Healthwatch Southwark in fulfilling our purpose in being the champion for people using health and social care services in Southwark.

This is an opportunity to boost your skillset and experience! It will help you:

- To get your voice heard, with the opportunity to influence the design, delivery and provision of local health and social care services
- Improve your understanding of health and social care services, nationally and in your local area.
- Develop your skills and experience in areas such as community engagement and research, public speaking, and decision making to help you pursue a job in the medical, social care, research, communication, public and third sectors.
- Gain volunteering hours.
- Get access to training opportunities.
- Meet like-minded people, make new friends, and develop connections with people in your local community.
- Make a real difference in your local community.
- Be part of a great team of volunteers, with dedicated staff to support you.

Young People's Health Panel Volunteer

Healthwatch Southwark is setting up a panel for young people aged 16-24 so that they can use their voices to make health and social care services better suited to their needs.

What is the role of the Young People's Health Panel?

Healthwatch Southwark's Young People's Health Panel represents the voices of young people in Southwark in relation to health and social care services. It offers young people the chance to:

- Tell health and social care decision makers what young people think of services and what they need.
- Influence how services are designed and delivered, driving positive changes and improvements.

What will the role involve?

There are many things you can get involved in as a Young People's Health Panel Volunteer! Some of which includes:

- Working with young people in the borough to find out about their experiences, views and needs and share these with the Panel and external stakeholders, service providers and commissioners.
- Being an active Panel member by attending and facilitating Panel meetings to discuss your findings about young people's health needs and develop ideas to improve services.
- Getting involved in priority projects based on feedback from local young people such as research projects on young people's mental health.
- Connecting with other young people's groups and organisations to collaborate on projects.
- Taking part in meetings with stakeholders, service providers such as local NHS trusts and commissioners to represent the voice of young people and share your views, experiences and feedback from peers.
- Representing the Panel in your local community at public events.
- Reviewing services and making recommendations to improve them for young people.
- Developing initiatives to boost our engagement with young people in Southwark such as a podcast, YouTube videos, Instagram stories etc.

What is required for this role?

You need to be between 16-24 years old and have:

- An interest in improving local health and social care services.
- Good listening and communication skills.

- An ability to work co-operatively as part of a team.
- A willingness and ability to volunteer from home and in Southwark.
- Access to internet/email.

How much time is involved?

- We will always work closely with you to ensure your volunteering role fits with your personal and social commitments.
- We ask for a minimum commitment of 3 months.

How to apply

- You can apply for this role by filling out an application form and emailing it to info@healthwatchsouthwark.org.
- If you have any questions, would like to find out more about the role, or require support filling out the application form please call us on 020 7358 7005 or email info@healthwatchsouthwark.org
- Please outline any accessibility requirements that you may have in the application form.

We look forward to hearing from you!