

Healthwatch Rotherham is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services in your local area. We listen to your needs, experiences and concerns, and speak out on your behalf to improve services for everyone.

## October 2021

- COVID-19 update
- Client stories
- Survey update
- Healthwatch... Lets' Talk



### COVID-19 update:

Earlier this month (September 2021), the Government announced their Covid-19 Autumn and Winter plan. The full document can be accessed on the GOV UK website.

Over Autumn and Winter, the Government will aim to sustain the progress made in the Covid-19 pandemic and prepare the country for future challenges, whilst ensuring the NHS does not come under unsustainable pressure.

The Government plan to do this by:

- Building our defences through vaccines and antivirals
- Test, Trace and Isolate
- Supporting the NHS and social care
- Advising people on how to protect themselves and others
- Pursuing an international approach—helping to vaccinate the world

It is important to still:

- Get a Covid-19 test if you have symptoms, and do regular asymptomatic testing
- Isolate when positive or when contacted by NHS Test and Trace
- Get your Covid-19 vaccine
- Exercise caution when mixing with other people and in crowded areas

The latest figures in Rotherham show an increase of 15.3% in Covid-19 cases (16th September–22nd September)

85.6% of adults in Rotherham have now had their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, with 79.8% of adults having had their second dose. (21st September). The first vaccine statistics have slowed down significantly now, and we urge people to get their first/second vaccines as soon as they can.

### Case study:



We are having numerous enquiries surrounding problems with finding an NHS dentist. This is a nationwide issue and there are currently no dentists within Yorkshire and Humber taking on NHS patients at the time of writing. This is leaving a lot of people distressed and in pain. Those who are already registered at dental practices are also struggling to get appointments, with some appointments being delayed or cancelled. This is leaving people with delays to treatment and subsequent pain and discomfort. We are advising them that this is a national issue which needs urgently addressing and to ring 111 to get an emergency dental appointment if they are in pain and cannot wait until their next scheduled appointment/cannot register to a dental practice.

### Healthwatch Let's Talk.....Suicide Awareness.

#### Wednesday 22nd September 2021:

Our latest 'Let's Talk' event discussed suicide awareness. The event was hosted by Sonia from Healthwatch Rotherham, with Ruth Fletcher-Brown from Rotherham Borough Council leading the session. The session focused on the 'Be the one' suicide prevention campaign, which this year is focusing on female suicides, after an incredibly successful campaign in 2019 highlighting male suicides. The campaign is encouraging and enabling women to be more confident in talking about difficult subjects such as suicide.

The 'Be the one' website contains a number of resources such as 'care cards', posters and social media resources. The website also contains lists of support services, both locally and nationally, that people can access as and when they are needed.

The session also highlighted 'Zero suicide prevention training' with Zero Suicide Alliance. This training is free and only takes 20-30 minutes, and teaches you how to recognise the warning signs and safeguard someone who could be contemplating suicide.

We want to say a huge thank you to Ruth for an informative session that we have had excellent feedback from.

A full write-up of the event with links to everything mentioned above can be found on our website here:

<https://healthwatchrotherham.org.uk/news/2021-09-22/lets-talksuicide-prevention-and-awareness-event-22nd-september>



### Healthwatch Let's Talk...Dementia Awareness. Wednesday 27th October 2021:

Our next 'Let's Talk' event will be surrounding dementia awareness. The session will be discussing dementia, how to support those who have dementia and their loved ones. We will be joined by healthcare professionals and support services which will give you the opportunity to ask any questions or voice any concerns/worries you have related to this topic. We look forward to seeing you there.

#### Joining details:

##### **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99704348573?pwd=dHYwcGdLd0hFQlZhc21HMUcjcjloQT09>

Meeting ID: 997 0434 8573

Passcode: 848852



Healthwatch Rotherham is here to listen to your experiences of health and social care services in Rotherham to make sure providers get it right for everyone. If you've had an experience—good or bad—please get in touch