

Information for applicants

Job title: Healthwatch Lancashire Chairperson

Reporting to: People First Board

Contract: Voluntary position

Salary: Expenses will be provided

Who we are

Healthwatch Lancashire is the public voice for health and social care and exists to make services work for the people who use them. We believe that the best way to do this is by providing people with opportunities to share their views and experiences. Our focus is on understanding the needs, experiences and concerns of people of all backgrounds who use services and to speak out on their behalf. It is often those closest to the process who are best placed to give useful feedback on the way services work and how they can be improved.

Our statutory duties include

- Promoting involvement of people in the provision and scrutiny of local health and care services.
- Enabling people to monitor the standard of provision of services and how these could be improved.
- Obtaining the views of people regarding their needs and experiences of local care services.
- Making recommendations about how services could be improved to commissioners and providers.
- Providing advice and information about local health and care services to enable choices to be made.
- Formulating views on the standard of provision and how these could be improved.
- Making recommendations to Healthwatch England with the intelligence and insight it needs to be effective.

Healthwatch Lancashire is managed by People First, an independent customer-led charitable organisation that has worked in Cumbria for almost 30 years. They provide a wide range of support and information services across Cumbria, Lancashire, and Teesside, all aimed at helping people to live informed, respected, healthy and fulfilled lives. People First also manage Healthwatch Cumbria. Head office is based in Carlisle, supported by offices in Barrow and Leyland.

Role Profile

The Chair of Healthwatch Lancashire is responsible for the leadership of the organisation and ensures that it meets all its legal obligations. The Chair will provide representation for Healthwatch Lancashire as an active member of the People First board, attending meetings where agreed. The key responsibilities of the role are to:

- Act as an ambassador for Healthwatch, providing representation at external functions, meetings and events

- Provide leadership support to the staff team and volunteers
- Support the development of a strategic plan for Healthwatch, ensuring that it is implemented in accordance with statutory obligations
- Help steer Healthwatch through changes and challenges, managing risk and ensuring its financial viability
- Support the Chief Executive Officer in their role of:
 - Championing Healthwatch Lancashire
 - Relationship building with key strategic partners
- Promote a culture of openness, critical thinking and grounded debate
- Promote good governance and the execution of best practice

The ideal candidate will have:

- Familiarity with relevant health and social care organisations in Lancashire and a good understanding of the current economy.
- Knowledge of health and care provision through working in a relevant service area or knowledge / experience as a carer or service user
- A commitment to the aims and objectives of Healthwatch to ensure they promote its best interests to its stakeholders and staff
- Knowledge of community engagement and involvement - with particular reference to health and wellbeing
- Strong leadership and people management skills
- The ability to work effectively as part of a team, contributing an independent perspective
- Integrity in the performance of their duties, identifying and declaring any vested interests or conflict of interest
- No political affiliation
- Desire to participate in training and development activities associated with their role

Having previous experience as a board member would be an advantage

Driving

A current driving licence and access to own transport is required for this role.

This post requires you to have the appropriate 'business use' insurance in place as occasional business use of your car is required.

The Appointment

Applications should include:

- Completed application forms A & B
- The supporting information should be no longer than 2 sides of A4

People First is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo a DBS check and any other safeguarding checks as appropriate to the post. The appointment will be subject to the satisfactory outcome of these checks.

One referee should be the applicant's current or most recent employer. Please note that references will not be accepted from relatives or from people writing solely in the capacity of

friends. References will be sought on the successful candidate following the interview process; however, we may approach previous employers for information to verify particular experience or qualifications, prior to interview. The appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

All candidates invited to interview must bring documents confirming any educational and professional qualifications referred to in their application form. Where originals or certified copies are not available for the successful candidate, written confirmation of the relevant qualifications must be obtained from the awarding body. Where the successful candidate has worked or been resident overseas in the past five years, we will carry out such checks and confirmations as may be required in accordance with statutory guidelines.

All candidates invited to interview must also bring with them:

- A current passport (if you do not hold a current passport, or you do not hold a British passport, then further evidence will be required as proof of the right to work in the UK)
- Driving Licence – photocard
- Official documentation evidencing your current address (e.g. utility bill, bank statement)
- Where appropriate, any documentation evidencing a change of name (e.g. marriage certificate)

COVID – Due to the nature of our work People First requires all staff to have had a double covid vaccine. Please bring with you proof of vaccination.

All applications should be clearly marked:

Confidential – Healthwatch Lancashire Chairperson

And emailed to recruitment@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk for the attention of Mr Barry Munro-Berry

To arrive no later than 9.00am, Monday 4 April 2022

Please note the application window may close early if we experience a high volume of applicants

Interviews will be held week commencing 11 April 2022

For an informal chat to discuss the role please contact Kerry Prescott on 01524 239100