

State of Support

Local Healthwatch Funding 2017/18

30 November 2017

Overview

Healthwatch is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services.

Across the country there are 152 local Healthwatch gathering people's experiences of health and care services, providing people with information and advice about care and using the collective insight to inform decision making.

This briefing provides an overview of the collective funding received by the Healthwatch network for 2017/18.

Key findings:

- For 2017/18 local Healthwatch collectively report that they received **£27,395,178¹** to deliver their statutory activities.
- This is a **6.9% reduction** on the £29,423,966 actually received in 2016/17.
- This compares with the 5.9% reduction between 2015/16 and 2016/17 we reported in last year's 'State of Support' briefing.²

¹ Figures checked with the network in October 2017. A small number of local Healthwatch receive NHS complaints advocacy service funding which cannot be split out from funding to deliver Healthwatch statutory activities. Footnotes indicate where this is the case.

² The actual percentage reduction last year rose to 7.5% when adjusted for final figures at the end of the financial year, with the budget received (£29,423,966) coming in significantly lower than the £29,940,078 reported in the October 2016 'State of Support' briefing. As there could still be in year adjustments to the funding received by local Healthwatch for this year, we have compared the figures at the same point in each financial year for consistency.



- Six in ten local Healthwatch have maintained the same level of funding or had a change of less than £5,000.
- However, forty-seven local Healthwatch have received more significant cuts, with an **average reduction of 17%**.
- The current level of funding means less than **50p per head** is being invested annually in Healthwatch to gather the views and experiences of people.³

A brief history of local Healthwatch funding

Central government provides funding to local authorities to enable them to commission a local Healthwatch.

Although this funding is not ring-fenced, central government originally announced a total of £43.5m, which was handed out to local authorities in 2013/14.

Following [research](#) indicating that only £33.5m got through to front-line local Healthwatch services in 2013/14, we were asked by the Department of Health to report how much funding was being allocated to the network. This is now the third 'State of Support' briefing. You can read the previous briefings here:

- [2015/16](#)
- [2016/17](#)

Whilst this year's reduction is 6.9%, when looked at over the history of the Healthwatch network funding has fallen by 37% against the government's original allocation of £43,500,000.

It is also clear that the rate of reduction is increasing year-on-year, and this year we have seen this leading to commissioning proposals by local authorities which could compromise the ability of local Healthwatch to deliver their statutory functions:

- Only commissioning the service to run part-time.
- Attempting to split out the signposting and advice function from the rest of the Healthwatch contract.

³ [Figures based on 2016 ONS population estimates](#)



- Stipulating specific activity in the Healthwatch contract potentially compromising independence.
- Commissioning both local Healthwatch and NHS complaints advocacy under one contract with a combined budget which makes it difficult to establish spending levels.
- Expecting local Healthwatch to income generate in order to cover the cost of delivering statutory services.

How we support local Healthwatch

In keeping with our statutory role in relation to commissioning arrangements and support for local Healthwatch, we will continue to support local Healthwatch during individual negotiations on budgets when requested.

With this in mind, in May 2017 the Healthwatch England Committee introduced a new approach to how we use our statutory power to advise local authorities on the commissioning of local Healthwatch. This will enable us to formally engage with local authorities much earlier in the process and raise any concerns. Ultimately this will help us ensure adequate arrangements are put in place to provide local communities with an effective and sustainable Healthwatch service.

We will also continue to provide local Healthwatch commissioners with regular opportunities to share best practice and identify how they can work together to support a stronger, more effective network.

With local Healthwatch also being asked to play a key part in new regional health and social care reforms, we will also promote the need for this work to be resourced effectively.

What does the funding look like in my area?

Local Healthwatch	2017/18 Healthwatch funding	2016/17 Healthwatch funding
Barking and Dagenham	£131,126	£124,000
Barnet	£128,000	£120,000
Barnsley	£150,000	£150,000
Bath and North East Somerset	£80,000	£80,000



Bedford	£93,380	£92,000
Bexley	£90,000	£114,116
Birmingham	£445,382	£445,382
Blackburn with Darwen	£165,000	£165,000
Blackpool	£58,000	£63,000
Bolton	£175,000	£175,000
Bracknell Forest	£65,000	£100,122
Bradford	£180,000	£180,000
Brent	£140,000	£150,000
Brighton and Hove	£199,000	£184,000
Bristol	£198,912	£278,912
Bromley	£85,000	£113,150
Buckinghamshire	£187,500	£200,000
Bury	£122,000	£122,000
Calderdale	£51,000	£51,000
Cambridgeshire	£287,602	£287,602
Camden	£218,815	£218,815
Central Bedfordshire	£144,200	£140,000
Central West London	£450,000	£450,000
Cheshire East ⁴	£168,503	£140,945
Cheshire West and Chester ⁵	£167,487	£189,000
City of London	£70,000	£70,000
Cornwall	£300,000	£300,000
County Durham ⁶	£147,675	£196,900

⁴ 2017/18 figure includes NHS complaints advocacy service funding, which cannot be split out from funding to deliver statutory activities.

⁵ 2017/18 figure includes NHS complaints advocacy service funding, which cannot be split out from funding to deliver statutory activities.



Coventry	£195,616	£195,616
Croydon	£206,000	£206,000
Cumbria	£250,173	£238,450
Darlington	£78,000	£131,697
Derby City	£235,000	£235,000
Derbyshire	£321,114	£321,114
Devon	£410,000	£468,000
Doncaster	£225,130	£242,000
Dorset	£402,030	£402,030
Dudley	£206,000	£206,000
Ealing	£140,000	£140,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	£160,000	£171,000
East Sussex	£374,000	£380,509
Enfield	£218,666	£230,000
Essex	£680,000	£780,000
Gateshead	£150,000	£150,000
Gloucestershire	£219,907	£382,000
Greenwich	£129,000	£129,000
Hackney	£159,000	£160,000
Halton	£134,715	£134,750
Hampshire	£303,075	£417,243
Haringey	£160,000	£180,000
Harrow	£75,000	£100,000
Hartlepool	£129,056	£129,056
Havering	£117,359	£117,359

⁶ The initial figure of £147,675 for 2017/18 provided by Healthwatch County Durham was corrected to £196,900. This will be reflected in the State of Support briefing for 2018/19 when published in autumn 2018.



Herefordshire	£140,000	£140,000
Hertfordshire	£376,593	£466,593
Hillingdon	£166,250	£175,000
Hounslow	£85,000	£89,000
Isle of Wight ⁷	£114,750	£153,000
Isles of Scilly	£45,507	£50,507
Islington	£165,000	£165,000
Kent	£511,000	£666,270
Kingston Upon Hull ⁸	£177,443	£205,699
Kingston upon Thames	£122,000	£122,000
Kirklees	£185,000	£184,500
Knowsley	£171,000	£171,000
Lambeth	£225,115	£225,000
Lancashire	£438,000	£438,000
Leeds	£374,000	£375,000
Leicester ⁹	£192,000	-
Leicestershire	£187,391	£187,391
Lewisham	£107,428	£107,428
Lincolnshire	£300,000	£340,000
Liverpool	£401,543	£401,543
Luton	£128,876	£128,876
Manchester	£80,000	£80,000

⁷ 2017/18 figure covers funding from April 2017 - December 2017.

⁸ 2017/18 figure includes NHS complaints advocacy service funding which cannot be split out from funding to deliver statutory activities. 2016/17 figure included NHS complaints advocacy service funding from December 2016 to March 2017, which cannot be split out from funding to delivery statutory activities.

⁹ 2016/17 figure included NHS complaints advocacy service funding. Therefore it is not possible to make a like for like comparison.



Medway	£128,770	£128,000
Merton	£125,000	£125,000
Middlesbrough	£113,373	£140,910
Milton Keynes	£158,644	£158,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	£210,078	£215,000
Newham	£120,000	£160,000
Norfolk	£458,000	£600,760
North East Lincolnshire	£109,218	£108,504
North Lincolnshire	£121,000	£126,000
North Somerset	£125,179	£139,300
North Tyneside	£148,953	£148,953
North Yorkshire	£142,459	£144,397
Northamptonshire	£245,000	£295,000
Northumberland	£199,000	£224,000
Nottingham City	£160,000	£160,000
Nottinghamshire	£198,000	£296,000
Oldham	£138,700	£146,000
Oxfordshire	£235,948	£235,948
Peterborough	£187,500	£153,000
Plymouth	£111,899	£111,899
Portsmouth	£79,938	£79,938
Reading	£110,500	£110,000
Redbridge	£150,000	£166,000
Redcar and Cleveland	£113,373	£127,500
Richmond upon Thames	£146,000	£146,000
Rochdale	£136,000	£157,000
Rotherham	£174,150	£193,500
Rutland	£66,282	£65,000
Salford	£166,000	£166,000
Sandwell	£195,000	£195,000
Sefton	£143,281	£143,281
Sheffield	£209,960	£238,000



Shropshire	£191,487	£191,487
Slough	£90,000	£95,000
Solihull ¹⁰	£157,573	£90,000
Somerset	£198,000	£199,047
South Gloucestershire	£100,000	£100,437
South Tyneside	£103,409	£103,409
Southampton	£126,000	£130,000
Southend	£123,000	£134,500
Southwark	£120,000	£120,000
St. Helens	£149,614	£149,615
Staffordshire	£415,109	£461,232
Stockport ¹¹	£88,000	£88,000
Stockton on Tees	£128,554	£128,554
Stoke-on-Trent	£195,000	£195,000
Suffolk	£484,014	£484,000
Sunderland	£150,000	£225,000
Surrey	£504,141	£519,089
Sutton	£110,000	£133,840
Swindon	£143,424	£145,000
Tameside	£115,000	£115,000
Telford and Wrekin	£100,000	£100,000
Thurrock	£124,000	£116,000
Torbay	£125,000	£135,000
Tower Hamlets	£179,716	£220,000
Trafford	£118,500	£121,072
Wakefield	£217,268	£217,268

¹⁰ 2016/17 figure covered funding from July 2016 - March 2017.

¹¹ 2017/18 and 2016/17 figures do not include funding for advice and information statutory activities.



Walsall	£175,000	£209,200
Waltham Forest	£141,000	£160,000
Wandsworth	£197,512	£192,000
Warrington	£160,000	£160,000
Warwickshire	£262,000	£304,000
West Berkshire	£108,924	£110,000
West Sussex	£262,600	£430,000
Wigan	£200,000	£200,000
Wiltshire	£190,000	£205,000
Windsor, Ascot & Maidenhead	£65,000	£26,785
Wirral	£170,000	£170,000
Wokingham Borough	£107,000	£107,677
Wolverhampton	£194,289	£194,289
Worcestershire	£289,000	£289,000
York	£117,520	£115,000

