

## **Healthwatch Lambeth seeks people to join the Board of Trustees**

Healthwatch Lambeth is looking for new Trustees to strengthen our current board and are particularly seeking trustees with experience in the areas of finance, fundraising, evaluation, HR, public and patient participation and/or user centred design.

Healthwatch Lambeth is the independent champion of local people who experience or need health or social care. Its vision is that people have their health and social care needs heard, understood and met. To achieve this vision HWL works to bring the voices and experiences of local people to bear in decision making.

HWL is governed by a Board of trustees which provides effective, skilled oversight and direction to the organisation. The Board is a supportive group who will work closely with a new Chair to ensure HWL fulfils its vision and responsibilities.

The successful candidate will be excited at the prospect of joining HWL and working with a passionate and experienced staff team, as well as a skilled and committed Board, to raise HWL's profile, ensure it is strategically positioned to influence and advocate for improvement in health and social care.

We are particularly interested in appointing trustees who reflect the diversity of our borough. If you have not been appointed to a board role before, we encourage you to apply and we will provide mentorship and training to ensure you can fulfil the role.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions and if you think this could be for you.

### **Application instructions**

Please send a CV and covering letter explaining why you are interested in applying for a trustee role to Claire Daly, administrator by midnight on 30th August: [claire.daly@healthwatchlambeth.org.uk](mailto:claire.daly@healthwatchlambeth.org.uk)

### **Appointment process**

Following receipt of your application, we will arrange an informal discussion with our Chair and CEO. The next stage is we will then interview individuals with 2 or 3 board members and if successful we will take up references. Following this, a recommendation will be made to the board on your appointment, and if successful you will be co-opted to the board and then formally elected at our AGM.

## **Member of the Board of Trustees of Healthwatch Lambeth Role Description & Further Information**

Good trustees come in all shapes and sizes with different backgrounds, experience and perspectives. A strong board contains a broad range of expertise, experience and knowledge amongst its membership.

The greatest thing you can do as a trustee is to bring your passion and commitment to advancing the aims of Healthwatch Lambeth; to make health and social care services work for everyone in Lambeth and to ensure that people have a voice in decision making in health and social care on an equal footing with others. It is also important to have some understanding of strategic and organisational development, to have good networking skills, and to be able to work collaboratively with a diverse group of people.

The overall goal of a trustee is to ensure that Healthwatch Lambeth is well run, solvent, complies with its legal responsibilities and delivers on its goals. The Board works collaboratively to make good decisions in line with its vision and values. It takes collective responsibility in the interests of the people of Lambeth and the good name of the organisation. Trustees of Healthwatch Lambeth are expected to present a positive image of the board and the organisation for instance at external events.

It is important that the Healthwatch Lambeth board represents the people we serve. Therefore, we want to have a balance of people with direct experience of health or social care services in Lambeth (experts by experience) and people who have other skills related to their field of employment or training (e.g in accounting, human resources, business, criminal justice, health or social care professionals). We also particularly welcome people from different walks of life, diverse ethnic backgrounds, and or with disabilities.

It does not matter if you have not had a role like this before. You will be offered training and support and the Board is supportive and always willing to help new members.

The Healthwatch Lambeth Board meets four times a year and holds three sub-committees that also meet four times a year: Strategy and programmes, Human Resources, and Finance, Risk & Assurance. Trustees serve on at least one of these subcommittees according to their interests and expertise.

The approximate time commitment is 1-2 hours per week. This will largely be focused on the quarterly Board meetings including reading papers in advance. Board members are also asked to commit to 1 – 2 days a year for Board and strategic development sessions

and 1-2 days a year for training in line with learning needs (e.g on how to be an effective trustee, financial governance for non finance trustees).

Board members are encouraged to focus on a particular priority of Healthwatch Lambeth and to become more directly involved in some aspects of the work from a strategic and oversight perspective, liaising with the relevant staff lead and partners including representing the organisation at partnership meetings. The areas of interest are discussed and agreed with the Chair and the CEO.

Board positions are voluntary and unpaid but reasonable expenses are payable under the remuneration policy to support trustees to attend meetings or other activities related to your contribution to Healthwatch Lambeth.

### **What Healthwatch Lambeth offers you**

- An organisation that is ambitious to be more influential and effective in its role to champion the voice of people using health and social care
- The opportunity to develop and exercise skills in a strategic and governance role in a pivotal and highly respected charity in Lambeth and to influence the strategic direction of Healthwatch Lambeth
- The opportunity to make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of the people of Lambeth especially people who are least well served by health and social care services
- The opportunity to empower people using health and social care services to find their voice and ensure services put people at the centre
- An experienced and highly skilled team of staff and volunteers dedicated to delivering the charity's aims
- An experienced, passionate, and thoughtful group of trustees with diverse interests and backgrounds who work together as a team to further the purposes of Healthwatch Lambeth

### **A little more about Healthwatch Lambeth<sup>1</sup>**

The Healthwatch Lambeth vision is that in Lambeth everyone's health and wellbeing needs are heard, understood and met. Our role is to be a trusted source of insight into people's experiences of health and social care and to use people's voices and experience to bring about change.

### **Values:**

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<sup>1</sup>For more information on Healthwatch Lambeth see; <http://www.healthwatchlambeth.org.uk/>

- *Inclusive: we start with people first, we work for children, young people and adults, we cover all health and social care services, we tackle inequality, and work for everyone, not just those who shout the loudest.*
- *Credible: we value knowledge and seek information from local people to challenge assumptions with facts; we celebrate and share good practice in health and social care; we hold ourselves to the highest standards.*
- *Collaborative: we keep the debate positive and get things done, we work in partnership with the public, health and social care sectors and the community and voluntary sector, we learn from people's experiences and from specialists and experts, we build on what is already known, and collaborate in developing and sharing new insights.*
- *Respectful: we treat people with dignity and kindness, we listen actively, we value people's opinions and lived experience*
- *Accountable and transparent: we are open and honest about our decision-making with the public and encourage others to do the same; we hold ourselves accountable for our actions, we seek and learn from feedback about our work to improve it in the future.*

Healthwatch Lambeth priorities are to focus our engagement work to:

- Reduce health inequalities
- Promote whole person and integrated health and social care
- Improve access, quality, experience and outcomes of services

Healthwatch Lambeth offices are in the Tripod area of Lambeth Town Hall (the basement, where several local charities are based) which is well placed for bus and tube connections. Board meetings are in person wherever possible. Subcommittee meetings maybe online.

Healthwatch Lambeth is a registered charity: Charity Reg No 1153444  
And a Registered Company No 08430436

Healthwatch Lambeth has an annual contract with Lambeth Council to deliver its core role. In 2024-25 this will be £197,216. This grant enables us to pursue an independent programme of engagement and research, to offer matched finance in funding bids, and to be a source of information for Lambeth's 321,000 population.

We also host the Lambeth Learning Disability Assembly (c.£27,500) and bring in other grant funding for specific projects

In 2023 we were successful in re-tendering to continue and build on our work for at least the next 4 years.

The Health and Social Care Act (2012) confers responsibilities on Healthwatch and on health and social care organisations;

- Organisations who plan, run and regulate health and social care services have to listen to what Healthwatch has to say
- Healthwatch:
  - has a seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board; the Council's committee that provides strategic oversight of public health, health and social care in Lambeth
  - has statutory powers to *Enter and View* services
  - can make recommendations to services and commissioners and is entitled to receive a response
  - can escalate issues to bodies such as the Care Quality Commission, and to Healthwatch England, who can take them forward on our behalf

## **More about being a trustee<sup>2</sup>**

A trustee is a highly responsible role with statutory duties to ensure an organisation

- Complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- Pursues its goals as defined in its governing document
- Uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its goals: the charity must not spend money on activities which are not included in its goals, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are
- Is financially stable
- Is effectively and efficiently administered

And to

- Contribute actively to the board of trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- Safeguard the good name and values of the organisation.
- Protect and manage the property of the charity and to ensure the proper investment of the charity's funds
- (If the charity employs staff) appoint the chief executive officer and monitor his/her performance
- Abide with the code of conduct of the organisation, maintaining high standards of probity, following the Nolan principles of standards in public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

## **A note on eligibility and exclusions**

Nominations will be considered for:

- Anyone who is over the age of 18 and lives or works or uses health and, or social care services in Lambeth.

Nominations cannot be considered from:

- Providers of health or social care services, where this represents a conflict of interest (eg someone who might benefit from a decision made). Individual circumstances will be considered.
- Employees of organisations with a statutory role to commission health or social care services for people in Lambeth.
- Lambeth Councillors or MPs.

Individual circumstances will be considered by the panel, but generally nominations will also be excluded if:

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<sup>2</sup>More information available from the Charity Commission <https://www.gov.uk/topic/running-charity/trustee-role-board>

- They have been dismissed as a trustee, board member or a director of an organisation of any kind
- They are the subject of bankruptcy restrictions order or similar order.
- They have been dismissed as an employee for a reason other than redundancy.
- Anyone who is under a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification Act.
- People who have received a prison sentence or suspended sentence of 3 months or more in the last five years.

### **Privacy Statement**

In line with GDPR requirements Healthwatch Lambeth has updated its privacy statement:

<http://www.healthwatchlambeth.org.uk/privacy/>

**Thank you for reading**

**Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions**

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