

Information for Potential New CHC Members

Community Health Councils (CHCs) represent the independent voice of patients and the public who use the health service in Wales. They play an important role in influencing the way services are planned and delivered, to ensure the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes for all people in Wales.

CHC members are local volunteers who act as the eyes and ears of patients and the public, listening to their concerns and working with the health service to improve the quality of patient care.

Members are asked to give the equivalent of three to five days a month, usually in short sessions of a few hours at a time.

We are looking for people from all walks of life, of all ages. Expressions of interest are welcomed from all groups, and we ensure no eligible candidate receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of: age, disability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, religion or religious affiliation.

Successful candidates will be given full training and support to enable them to carry out their role and any 'out of pocket' expenses such as travel will be reimbursed.

What do members do?

- Consider health issues from the public's viewpoint
- Visit local services and talk to staff and patients and help produce reports
- Look at local and national health service proposals and express opinions
- Attend regular CHC meetings
- Read and comment on a wide range of documents

What do CHC's look for in a member?

- We want people from all walks of life - the only essential requirement is a genuine interest in improving health services for your community
- An interest in the local area, including an understanding of local issues
- Being able to work with people in a team
- Being able to listen to others and exchange views