



7th July 2017

Grants of up to £1,000 available for local people to improve wellbeing in their community

Healthwatch Surrey is launching their Community Cash Fund for 2017/8 to help individuals and small groups undertake projects to boost the wellbeing for people in Surrey.

Last year, the fund supported ten projects including “Come Knit with Me” - a knitting and social group supporting people living with dementia and fit-and-fun sessions for dads and their children to develop an educational support group.

Jacque Pond, Healthwatch Surrey Engagement Officer said:

“It has been fantastic to be able support such brilliant projects with the Community Cash Fund and we are delighted to be able to run the fund again this year.”

“If you have an idea that will help local people to speak up about local health services, that will boost their wellbeing, this is your chance to make it happen. You don’t have to be from a registered charity or group - all projects will be judged on merit.”

Interested groups or individuals will need to complete a short application form by Friday 8th September and the winners will be announced on 16th September.

The projects need to meet the following criteria:

- Increase the participation and involvement of disadvantaged communities in health and social care related services.
- Increase the feedback from hard to reach or seldom heard communities about health and social care services.
- Improve the wellbeing of hard to reach or seldom heard communities through involvement.

More information about the Community Cash Fund and how to apply can be found at: <http://www.healthwatchesurrey.co.uk/our-work/community-cash-fund/>

ENDS

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Lauren ter Kuile on 07545 433465 or lauren.terkuile@healthwatchesurrey.co.uk

Further information

- Healthwatch Surrey is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services. We exist to ensure that people are at the heart of care. We listen to what people like about services, what could be improved and we share their views with those with the power to make change happen. We also help people find information they need about services in their area.
- Healthwatch has the power to ensure that people's voices are heard by the government and those running services. As well as seeking the public's views ourselves, we also encourage services to involve people in decisions that affect them. Our sole purpose is to help make care better.
- A local rate contact number (0303 303 0023), SMS number (07592 787 533) and email contact enquiries@healthwatchsurrey.co.uk have been set up to help people share their experiences or get information services.
- People can also visit Citizens Advice in Surrey Heath, Woking, Reigate and Banstead, Runnymede, Spelthorne and Waverley to speak about their experience and get information about services.
- Healthwatch Surrey has a seat on the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board and can alert Healthwatch England and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to concerns about services.