

Unlocking the power of people-driven care

Healthwatch Havering

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with the impact that local Healthwatch have is vitally important. Healthwatch are empowering their communities to share their experiences. They're changing the health and care landscape and making sure that people's views are central to making care better and tackling health inequalities.

The feedback local Healthwatch hear in their communities and share with us at Healthwatch England is invaluable, building a picture of what it's like to use health and care services nationwide. Local people's experiences help us understand where we – and decision makers – must focus, and highlight issues that might otherwise go unnoticed. We can then make recommendations that will change care for the better, both locally and across the nation."

Louise Ansari, Chief Executive, Healthwatch England

A message from our Chair

Welcome to our Annual report for 2024-2025, Our role as a Healthwatch is to support Havering residents, by being their independent champion when using health and social care services in Havering.

We are a small organisation and recognise the importance of working in partnership and collaboration with the all organisations that residents rel upon to achieve successful outcomes for their health and social care heeds

This year has been particularly busy, with significant challenges facing both the health and social care system and our residents. It is also important to recognise that there have been some amazing opportunities for Havering, such as the opening of St George's Health and Wellbeing How and the new Country Park GP practice: as the year closed, Kansport or Jondon announced plans for introducing a new Superloop Bus service, SL12, which we have suggested could serve St George's Hub to ease access to it.

With the many changes happening in GP/Primary care the introduction of greater use of the Pharmacy services for residents, has caused confusion and anxiety. We have recently corried out a visit to two local pharmacies and our reports can be found on our website

We have continued with our Enter and View programme, visiting Queens A& E department, GP practices, Residential Care homes and the Walk-in services in Queens and Harold Wood Polycline; reports on all of these organisations are available on our website.

Working with other Healthwatch, Havering Council, Havering Place Based Partnership, the integrated Care Board and other stakeholders is essential to ensuring that we can in luence decisions taken on residents' behalf.



It is my privilege to introduce the Healthwatch Haveing Annual report and sharing the work we have been doing to ensure that your views on ealth and social care are heard. The ackerements we have made this year and the sositive impact on health and social care have been achieved by the co-operation of HPBP team and our staff team and our amazing team of volunteers

Anne-Marie Dean, Chair, **Healthwatch Havering**



About us

Healthwatch Havering is your local health and social care champion.

We ensure that NHS leaders and decision-makers har your voice and use your feedback to improve care. We can also help you find reliable and trustworthy information and advice.



Our vision

To bring closer the day when everyone gets the care they need.



Our mission

To make sure that people's experiences help make health and care better.



our values are:

Equity: We're compassionate and inclusive. We build strong corrections and empower the communities we serve.

Collaboration: We build internal and external relationships. We communicate clearly and work with partners to amplify our influence.



Impact: We're ambitious about creating change for people and communities. We're accountable to those we serve and hold others to account.

Independence: Our agenda is driven by the public. We're a purposeful, critical friend to decision-makers.

Truth: We work with integrity and honesty, and we speak truth to power.

Our year in numbers

We've supported more than 1,250 people to have their say and get information about their care. We currently employ a staff and our work is supported by 17 volunteers.

Reaching out:



1,155 people shared their experiences of health and social cal services, helping to raise awareness of issues and improve care.

103 people came to us for clear advice and information on topics such as GP and hospital appointments, dental care and problems they had experienced in health and social care.

Championing your vaich



We published 10 reports of our health and social care services and the improvements people would like to see.

Our most popular report was Long COVID syndrome – the continuing effects, highlighting people's struggles with Long COVID and exploring what is needed to help them overcome their difficulties.

atutory fundin



Ve're mainly funded by Havering Council. In 2024/25 we eceived £117,359 from them, which was the same amount as last year.

A year of making a difference

Over the year we've been out and about in the community listening to your stories, engaging with partners and working to improve care in Havering. Here are a few highlights.

A survey asking about patients' understanding of the role of Allied Healthcare Professionals (AHPs) in GP surgeries showed that most respondents were unaware of AHPs

A series of focus groups for people living with Long COVID, showed support for the establishment of peer support rougs for them

Summer

We carried out an Enter and View visit to both branch surgeries of the Greenwood GP practice in Harold Wood and Hornchurch

We met the Havering Safeguarding Adults Board to explain the importance of urging pharmacies and others not to ask patients to reveal personal details when proving their identity

In conjunction with the Havering Children's Safeguarding Network, we promoted the NSPCC's PANTS campaign to alert children, their parents and grandparents to the dangers of hild exual abuse

St George's Health and Wellbeing Hub in Hornchurch, development of which we have actively supported since 2013, opened

Visits to Accident & Emergency services at Queen's Hospital Ropaford culminated in an Enter View visit to the three centres Urgent Treatment Centre, **Emergency Department** and Ambulance Reception

We promoted the Veteran Friendly Framework to care homes, to encourage them to recognise and value the service given by those of their residents who are former members of the armed forces

Working together for change

We've continued to work with neighbouring Healthwatch to ensure people's experiences of care in North East London are heard at the Integrated are System (ICS) level, and influence decisions made about services by NAS North East London ICB and the East London Partnership for Health and Social Care, as well as the NHS locally and Havering Council.

This year, we've worked with Healthwatch across North East Lordon t achieve the following:

Turning community insight into system change



The 8 Healthwatch continue to develop the Community Insights Programme with NEL ICB. We've processed the experiences of 162,365 people, identifying 536,048 issues. On GP and hospital services alone, we've produced 623 reports and 305 dashboards. The system tracks care trends, highlights what works, and pinpoints areas for improvement—creating schared evidence base to make services more responsive.

What good care looks like to local people



In 2023, we heard from over 2,000 residents about what good care means to them. They told us it should be accessible, competent, person-centred, and trustworthy. These principles re pow embedded in the Integrated Care Board's strategy through our partnership work. Together with the ICB, we will measure partners' success and track progress against these standards through our Community Insights system.

ternity Equality



our 2023 maternity report helped shape the NEL Maternity Equity and Equality Strategy, leading to commitments on traumaformed care, cultural competency, multilingual advocacy, and improved communication. Its impact continues through work on interpreting services and a proposed 24/7 helpline. All 3 hospital Trusts are improving access for non-English speakers introducing new clinical processes and bilingual advocates to deliver more inclusive, responsive maternity care.

We've also summarised some of our other outcomes achieved this year in the Statutory Statements section at the end of this report.

Making a difference in the community

We bring people's experiences to healthcare professionals and decision-makers, using their feedback to shape services and improve care over time

Here are some examples of our work in Havering this year:

Creating empathy by bringing experiences to



Hearing personal experiences and their impact on people's lives helps services better understand the issues people face.

Deaf patients in Havering using P or hospital services are now guaranteed a British Sign Language (RSI) interpreter if they ask for one, so they can make informed decisions about their care. After we shared experiences of people who had been refused an interpreter with primary care commissioners, GP surgeries and hospitals now have inclusive policies in place We will be exploring how effective this has been during coming visits.

Learning Disability & Aution



Liberty PCN shaping services for people with Learning Disgoility and Autism based on our report.

The Liberty FCN team are doing a piece of quality improvement work around learning disability annual health checks and health action plans, and the ongoing support people get to complete their action plans through the year.

ving care over time - Over Fifties Forum



Examples are: Blood Test Booking service, GP reception services, COVID 19 boosters, St Georges Health and Wellbeing development. We also engage with issues such as Neighbourhood Policing, Homelessness and access to clinical services.

Listening to your experiences



Listening to your experiences

Queen's Hospital: Streaming & Urgent Treatment, Ambulance Reception and the **Emergency Department**

Queen's Hospital, Romford has been under considerable pressure continually since last summer. With patients' numbers attending in summer as high as they do in winter, the hospital has had no espite

With no evidence that this pressure would steady and improve from a patient perspective, we decided to carry out a series of Enter & Diew and less formal visits.

What did we do?

In discussion with Queen's Hospital, we arranged for an Enter and View visit. Our trained team of Volunteer members developed a plan which would explore three separate care areas plus a survey with patients to understand some of the reasons for attending.

Key things we heard from patients about why they had gone to A&E:

My GP told my to come

Lcouldy't get an appt with my GP and I felt unwell

hurt myself in an accident

23.5% I felt unwell

Our work spows that potentially these patients could have been treated with a different and more appropriate service model.

What difference did this make?

This information helped us to share and discuss with the Hospital Trust and Commissioners the need to design different service models and with the future proposals regarding Same Day Access this could have a very positive result impact on Queen's Hospital.

Hearing from all communities

We're here for all residents of Havering. That's why, over the past year, we've worked hard to reach out to those communities whose voices may go unheard.

Every member of the community should have the chance to ware their story and play a part in shaping services to meet their needs.

This year, we have reached different communities by:

- Connecting with professional teams and working with the Traveller community
- Developing links to enable us to help to support the Voteran community



Hearing from all communities

Havering Community Chest Fund

The Fund was devised by Havering Council and the NHS to support small and medium-sized local organisations with projects aimed at addressing health inequalities. As a member of the panel that awards grants from the Fund, we use our insights to influence decision-making positively for patients. The following examples show what has been done this year:

Providing hearing loop facilities for users of hearing aids

What difference did this make

A grant from the Fund enabled the installation of a hearing loop in the Urgent Treatment Centres at Queen's Hospital, Romford and Harolo Wood Polyclinic for the benefit of patients who are deaf or hard-of-hearing (an issue identified as part of our review of Services for the Deaf.

Improving health and wellbeing within local **Asian communities**

What difference did this make?

Havering Asian Social and Welfare Association - Funding was awarded for equipment for chair Yoga, providing a gentle and accessible way to practice yoga that includes seated and standing poses using the chair for balance and support to improve flexibility, reduce stress and improve mental health.

Reducing health inequalities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

What difference did this make?

Over the past three years Havering has seen a significant increase in refuges and asylum seekers as a result of world events. Following workshops, mental health support was identified as a key need.

Havering has addressed the barriers which were driving the health inequalities experienced by the asylum seekers and refugees through providing a dedicated Psychologist Support Service for this cohort.

Information and signposting

Whether it's finding an NHS dentist, making a complaint, or choosing a good care home for a loved one – you can count on us. This year, over 100 people have reached out to us for advice, support or help finding services.

This year, we've helped people by:

- Providing up-to-date information people can trust
- Helping people access the services they need
- Supporting people to look after their health
- Signposting people to additional support services



Information and signposting



Access to services for people with Autism

We shared and discussed widely our report "Services for people living with learning disability and autism", which was published in 2023 but continues to reverberate across the local health and social sector for people living with Autism.

One correspondent told us "I am an adult with Autism, and I get a dreadful service from both (NHS and social care). I would like a social worker who is qualified to do a full assessment under the care Act and not pick and choose and to stop coming up with excuses. As for (the NHS), it is ring-a-ring let's all go around in circle; do you know what this does someone with Autism?

I feel that as an adult with Autism trying to make changes, I am coming up against a brick wall. Yes, I am the lone voice on the Havering Autism Partnership".

Our report was one of a number of reports by local Healthwatch that paved the way for the Healthwatch England report "Recognising ADHD: How to improve support for people who need it" (published May 2025)`



Empowering children who can hear but have deaf parents and/or siblings

Our report "Deafness is not a barrier - It only becomes a barrier if there is a lack of accessibility has also had a major effect locally.

One correspondent asked: "Can you please give me all the information for support of a hearing child in a deaf family. She's a young girl who is lonely and has asked for help and support. She is in primary school and her brother is deaf and so are both parents"

We were able to refer both to a local voluntary service specialising in supporting deaf people, and to the statutory service provide by our local Council.

As a direct result of our report, the local Place-based Partnership has established a working group to identify where improvements in local services for deaf people are needed – both NHA and social care – on which we are represented by our Chair.

Showcasing volunteer impact

Our fantastic volunteers have given over 800 hours between them to support our work. Thanks to their dedication to improving care, we can better understand what is working and what needs improving in our community.

This year, our volunteers:

- Carried out six formal Enter and View Visits and four less formal visits to follow-up previous Enter and View visits
- Collected experiences and supported their communities to share their views



Showcasing volunteer impact

At the heart of what we do

From finding out what residents think to helping raise awareness, our volunteers have championed community concerns to improve care

""My career as a teacher of children with challenging behaviours was followed by a spell with a VSC. I have been volunteering with Healthwatch for over ten years and have been an Elected Member of the Governance Board for over six years.

For me, it is important that hospital care is compassionate and flexible. This year I have fooused on the delivery of care in A & E. When we undertake a visit, we publish a report which is shared with the organisations being visited. It is gratifying when the hospital authorities act on our recommendations for improving the service. "



"Having retired after many years of working in the Home Care sector, being a Volunteer with Healthwatch Havering has given mean opportunity to continue my passion about how important the role of Caring is and how Carers can make a positive impact on the lives of our residents. The values of Healthwatch ave given me a sense of purpose to continue to contribute to the Care sector and to give a voice to residents and their families that is expressed in our reports. Visiting care homes and seeing how our elderly are looked after is a pleasure."



Mary

Be part of the change.

If you've felt inspired by these stories, contact us today and find out how you can be part of the change.



www.healthwatchhavering.co.uk



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Finance and future priorities

We receive funding from Havering Council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to help us do our work.

Our income and expenditure:

Income		Expenditure	
Annual grant from Government	£117,359	Expenditure on pay	£88,458
Additional income	£5,671	Non-pay expenditure	£14,257
		Office costs	£24,671
Total income	£123,030	Total Expenditure	£127,386

Additional income is broken down into:

- £5,000 received from NHS North Past London for work supporting them *
- £500 received from a local Primary Care Network for joint work on the project about services for people living with long COVID
- £171 interest from our bunkers

* Integrated Care System (ICS) funding:

ne eight Healthwatch across North East London receive funding from our Integrated care System (ICS) - NHS North East London - to support collaborative work at this level. As part of this commitment, Healthwatch Agvering represents all North East London Healthwatch at meetings of the ICB Findace, Performance and Investment Committee to ensure that the patient erspective is taken into account when financial decisions are made.

Finance and future priorities

Next steps:

Over the next year, we will keep reaching out to every part of society, especially people in the most deprived areas, so that those in power hear their views and experiences. Our Enter & View programme will continue to focus on care homes, GP practices and Queen's Hospital.

We will also work together with partners and our local Integrated Care System to help develop an NHS culture where, or every level, staff strive to listen and learn from patients to make care better.

Our other key priorities for the next year include:

- 1) **Primary Care: GPs** working with primary care practitioners to improve patients' access, including the development of Patient Participation Groups
- 2) **Primary Care: Community Pharmacies** promoting the development of the Pharmacy First initiative in Havering
- 3) **Development of A&E services** at Queen's Hospital, LAS and Urgent Care the e and at Harold Wood Polyclinic monitoring changes
- 5) Long COVID supporting the development of Peer Support Groups for people living with Long COVID
- 6) Working with the Deaf community to continue supporting Havering Council on its developments to empower the Deaf community.
- St Georges Development participating in the development of this vital community facilities
- 8) **Care Quality Commission** working with the CQC to improve inspection and reporting of local health and social care facilities
- 9) **NSPCC: PANTS campaign** supporting initiatives to improve safeguarding of children

Healthwatch Havering is the operating name of Havering Healthwatch CIC, a Community Interest Company limited by guarantee (registered in England, no. 8416383)

Queen's Court, 9-17 Eastern Road, Romford RM1 3NH

Healthwatch Havering uses the Healthwatch Trademark when undertaking our statutory activities as covered by the licence agreement

The way we work

Involvement of volunteers and lay people in our governmence and decision-making.

Our Healthwatch Board consists of 10 members who provide direction, oversight, and scrutiny of our activities. Our Board ensures that decisions about priority areas of work reflect the concerns and interests of our diverse local community. The Board members are the three company directors, two staff and five volunteers elected annually from among our membership.

Throughout 2024/25, the Board met 10 times and made decisions on matters such as priorities for our Enter and View programme and Public Engagement projects, and our relationship with Havering Council, the ICB and the Placebased Partnership.

We ensure wider public involvement in deciding our work priorities.

Methods and systems used across the year to obtain people's experiences

We use a wide range of approaches to ensure that as many people as possible can provide us with insight into their experience of using services, including participation in the Healthwatch North East London Community lasights System and feedback from individuals via the Healthwatch England westorm system..

During 2024/25, we have been available by phone and email, provided a webform on our website and through our weekly Friends' Network news bulletin, as well as attending meetings of community groups and forums.

We ensure that this annual report is made available to as many members of the public and partner organisations as possible. We will publish it on our website and send it to a wide range of stakeholders.

Responses to recommendations

No providers failed to respond to requests for information or recommendations. There were no issues or recommendations escalated by us to the Healthwatch England Committee, so there were no resultant reviews or investigations.

Taking people's experiences to decisionmakers

We ensure that people who can make decisions about services hear about the insights and experiences shared with us

For example, in our local authority area, we take information to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Outer North East London Joint OSC and Havering Place-based Partnership Board, as well as less formal forums such as the Havering Live Well Network and the Havering Integrated Care and Social Prescribing Network.

We also take insight and experiences to decision-makers at North East London ICB. For example, we meet regularly with senior staff at Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust as well as the North East London ICB. We represent all Healthwatch in North East London at the ICB Finance, Performance and Investment Committee and we also share data with Healthwatch England to help address health and care issues at a national level.

Our Non-Executive Director, Ron Wright, sits as a patient representative on both the Board of Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust and the Council of the Partnership of East London Cooperatives (PELC) a GP-led organisation providing streaming/triage at Queen's Hospital, Urgent Treatment Centres and out-of-hours GP services.

Volunteers represent us at meetings such as the North East London Local Quality & Surveillance Group, the Havering Quality and Safeguarding Group and the Havering Drug and Alcohol Partnership.

Healthwatch representatives

We are represented on the Havering Health & Wellbeing Board and the Havering Place-based Partnership Board by Anne-Marie Dean, our Chair, who attends the monthly Partnership Board and quarterly Health & Wellbeing Board meetings.

Our Executive Director, Ian Buckmaster, represents us at meetings with the North East London ICB and East London Health and Care Partnership; he also attends the ICB Finance, Performance and Investment Committee.

We are also represented on a range of official and community bodies including:

- > Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Pospitals Trust Board
- > Havering Adult Safeguarding Board
- > Havering Children's Safeguarding Board
- > Havering Combatting Druge Partnership
- > Havering Community Salety Partnership
- > Havering Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
- > Havering integrated Care & Social Prescribing Network
- > Havering Live Wall Partnership
- > Have ring Over Fifties Forum
- Hovering Quality & Surveit ance Team meeting
- Haveing Volunteer Managers' Forum
- Havering combatting Drugs Partnership
- London Ambura ce Service Public & Patients Council
- North East London Local Quality & Safeguarding Group
- uter North East London Joint Health OSC
- Partnership of East London Cooperatives Council
 - St Leorge's Health & Wellbeing Hub Management Board

In addition, we have regular meetings with the Chairs and senior leaderships of local commissioner and provider bodies, including:

- > Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospitals Trust
- > Havering Place-based Partnership
- > NHS North East London ICB

2024-25 Enter and view

Location	Reason for visit	What you did as a result
GP Practice – Greenwood (two branch surgeries: Ardleigh Green and Harold Wood)	The next call in our continuing series of visits to GP practices to observe their day-to-day operation. We visited both branches.	We suggested that: Hearing loops be installed for the besefit of patients with hearing impairments • Staff training be improved for triaging appointments • Observance of patient confidentiality be improved in open areas • The premises' appearance be improved
Queen's Hospital – inpatients' mealtimes	we carried out a series of similar violts in 2016, 2017 and 2018. This was the first opportunity post-COVID to continue the series. Our purpose was to observe how meals were delivered and served to patients.	We made a range of recommendations for improvements in the system. In response, the hospital prepared and executed an action plan.
Residential Care Homes Cherry Tree. The Farmhouse, and The Raddocks (three care homes co-located on one site)	The provider organisation for these three homes had recently changed. We had visited them when under previous management and so we wished to observe their operation in the new circumstances.	The visiting team made only one recommendation: that blinds be provided in the conservatory of The Farmhouse. We will be re-visiting later in 2025 to see what progress has been made.

2024-25 Enter and view continued

Location	Reason for visit	What you did as a result
Pharmacies – two Boots pharmacies in Central Romford (The Brewery and The Liberty)	We have started a programme of visits to pharmacies to observe them in operation as Pharmacy First is introduced. Visiting these two large Boots stores was the next in series.	We recommended that. The two branches liaise to ensure posients can obtain prescriptions Translation services be provided Staff be trained in mental health first aid The vacant post of manager be filled at the Liberty pharmacy as soon as possible
Queen's Hospital – A&E Services – Emergency Department, Urgent Treatment Centre and Ambulance Reception (both formal Entel & View visits and informal visits all combined in a single report)	We had previous observed the operation of A&E services at the hospital. Following significant increases in patient attendances, extensive reconfiguration of accommodation and changes in operational procedures, we wanted to observe the current arrangements.	The report set out a range of recommendations for the providers of the services (the Hospital Trust, the UTC operator and the Ambulance Service). In response, the Hospital Trust prepared and executed an Action Plan to address the suggestions we had made

2024-25 Outcomes

Project/activity

Outcomes achieved

Joint projects with other Healthwatch

Big Conversation: what does good care look like? Creating a **Good Care**Framework

The framework developed has four principles: Accessfule, Person-Centred, Competent and Trustworthy. The Framework can be used by stakeholders to develop their own success measures and evaluation tools. NHS North East London has endorsed the Good Care Framework for use by NHS providers across North East London.

North East London Integrated Syster Research Engagement Network

The aim was to understand people's villingness to take part in research on health and social care services. The top three research topics were mental health, diabetes and cancer.

The top three topics identified were: engage with diverse populations; continue participants' involvement in projects; and build trust through honest dialogue.

Care Homes Direct Enhanced Service (DES) – commissioned by NHS North East London The aim was to find how DES was working between GPs and care homes. The findings were that GPs were in regular contact with homes, supporting and visiting as required and that additional services such as chiropody, physiotherapy, optometry and dentistry were available to residents

2024-25 Outcomes continued

Project/activity

Outcomes achieved

Healthwatch Havering projects from previous years

Long COVID (Post-COVID syndrome): the continuing effects -

Following up previous work on Long COVID, four ocus groups were held, attended by 21 people living with Long COVID. The resultant feedback was presented to various stakeholders and funding identified to set up Peel Support Groups to assist people living with Long COVID.

Services for people living with learning disability and Autism

Our report on service for people with a learning disability or Autism, published in 2023, continues to be influential. We identified areas where improvement was needed, and the MHS and social care services continue to address those needs for improvement

Services for people who are deaf

This report, also published in 2023, continues to have an effect too. The local NHS and the council have established a joint working group – on which we are represented – that is examining in depth the improvements in service that are needed.

Healthwatch Havering Friends' Network (HHFN)

Our HHFN bulletins continue to be published weekly, passing on to readers various messages from local NHS and social care authorities and providers and other organisations who might not otherwise find out about them

2024-25 Outcomes continued

Project/activity Outcomes achieved Healthwatch Havering projects

George's Health and Wellbeing Hub

Virtually since the beginning of Healthwatch, we have supported the development of a Health and Wellbeing Nub on the site of the former St George's Hospital in Hornchurch

The Hub opened in october 2024. We have continued our involvement with the project as it continues to grow in importance to the local community

Defibrillators

a result of a report from lealthwatch Manchester, we decided to review the availability of lefibrillators (assisted by the London Ambulance Service).

The project continues into 2025/26 but, as a direct result of it, a new defibrillator has been installed at one church in the borough and plans are well-advanced for the installation of one at another church.

Superloop Bus route SL12

Towards the end of the year,
Transport for London announced a
new bus route for Havering, SL12. We
have proposed an alternative for part
of the route to enable the buses to
serve the new St George's Health and
Wellbeing Hub (which is not well
served by buses at present).

Our proposal has been strongly supported by the constituency MP, GLA Member and local councillors, among others.

2024-25 Outcomes continued

Project/activity

Outcomes achieved

Healthwatch Havering projects (continued)

Veteran Friendly Framework for residential care homes and GP practices

Having become aware of this initiative by Royal Star and Garter and the British region to provide support to residents of care homes who have served in the armed forces, we decided to support it by recomposing to local care and nursing homes and GP practices. This project continues into 2025/26., when will be exploring now many homes and GP pactices are developing their service ds "veteran friendly".

Same Day Acce

HS North East London has asked for a survey of people's understanding of the availability of Same Day Access for patients unable to see their own GP. The project continues into 2025/26.

healthwatch Havering

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