

Healthwatch Oxfordshire (HWO) report to Health Improvement Board (HIB)
19th February 2026

Presented by Healthwatch Oxfordshire Research and Projects Officer, Katharine Howell

Purpose / Recommendation

- For questions and responses to be taken in relation to Healthwatch Oxfordshire insights.

Background

Healthwatch Oxfordshire continues to listen to the views and experiences of people in Oxfordshire about health and social care. We use a variety of methods to hear from people including surveys, outreach, community research, and work with groups including Patient Participation Groups (PPGs), voluntary and community groups and those who are seldom heard. We build on our social media presence and output to raise the awareness of Healthwatch Oxfordshire and to support signposting and encourage feedback. We ensure our communications, reports and website are accessible with provision of Easy Read and translated options.

Key Issues

Since the last meeting in November 2025:

- We have been commissioned to undertake additional engagement and listening across 14 **rural areas** (Deddington, Cropredy, Heyford, Yarnton, Chipping Norton, Charlbury, Long Hanborough, Freeland, Chalgrove, Sonning Common, Faringdon, Stanford in the Vale, Shrivenham and Watchfield) for Oxfordshire County Council as part of the **Marmot focus on health inequalities**. We are working in partnership with Community First Oxfordshire and are running a survey and focus groups. (People living in other rural areas of the county can also add views). The survey link is here: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/rurallivingpublic
- We will shortly be publishing insights from **community research** including members of the Chinese community, and Sunrise Multicultural Centre with a focus on cancer awareness. We also have a forthcoming report on end-of-life and palliative care. All reports together with summary, Easy Read, and provider responses, available [on our website](#).
- We continue to support **Community Research**, working together with communities that may be seldom heard to support them to voice issues of concern to them, including:
 - Supporting grassroots group **Black Women in Maternity** in Blackbird Leys to hear from Black women about their experiences of maternity care and support

- Supporting community-led development of a **'how to' guide for community researchers in Oxfordshire**, with funding from Oxfordshire Community Research Network/University of Oxford. We held four workshops in the autumn, with over 20 people attending from grassroots groups in Oxfordshire's priority areas (including Oxford Community Action, Sudanese, Nepali, AfiUK and others). The finished guide will be designed early 2026, and we hope to progress on supporting training.

All reports are available to read via [our website](#), together with examples of [the impact of our research](#).

Enter and View reports and visits continue. Once complete, all reports and provider responses are available [on our website](#) including:

- Blue Outpatients Department at the John Radcliffe Hospital
- Children's Department at the Horton Hospital
- Oxford Breast Imaging Centre at the Churchill Hospital
- Wintle Ward at the Warneford Hospital

Since the last meeting we also made an Enter and View visit to St Leonard's Ward at Wallingford Community Hospital.

Other activity:

- We held a public webinar:
 - **Neighbourhood health in Oxfordshire**, January 2026 – attended by 64 people, with speakers including Ansaf Azhar, Director of Public Health and Dr Michelle Brennan, chair of Oxfordshire GP Leadership Group.

Recordings of this and previous webinars and joining details are available to watch [on our website](#).

- Our next webinar will be on **Tuesday 17th March 2026**, 1-2 pm, on the theme of **Oxfordshire as a Marmot Place** – with speakers from across the system.
- In **Quarter 3** we engaged directly with approximately 389 people across the county through being on the streets, attending events, hospital stands, community gatherings and play days and Patient Participation group meetings. We spoke to men in Faringdon as part of #30Chats, inspired by Men's Health Partnership.
- We have been participating in Neighbourhood Health workshops, to highlight need for pathways for patients and residents to be part of the design of this shift towards care closer to home.
- Our most recent [Board Open Forum](#) was on **Wednesday 18th February** online.
- Healthwatch Oxfordshire continue to work to make sure the voices of Oxfordshire residents are heard – [sign up to our news bulletin](#) to hear about our work or visit our website to [leave your feedback on a local service](#).



Images: data analysis with Black Women in Maternity group; breast care nurse visit to Sunrise Multicultural Centre; Grief Week outreach in Summertown; #30 Chats with men in Faringdon; community research workshop; hospital stand at Witney Community Hospital.