



Project Fund: Overview

What is the Healthwatch Oxfordshire Project Fund?

January 2018 sees the launch of a new **Healthwatch Oxfordshire Project Fund**. This fund enables Healthwatch to support third sector organisations, and smaller groups to carry out research with or by the people they serve.

Research proposals in 2018 will be considered if they explore any of the following **themes**:

- What is the experience of access to health and social care by local communities?
- Areas of health and/ or social care development and how services can work better to improve patient experience
- The impact of changes in health and/or social care services on local communities
- Health and social care experiences and needs facing communities in areas of social deprivation or inequalities in health in Oxfordshire

For 2018 Healthwatch Oxfordshire is also looking at overarching patient experiences of:

- access to local NHS dentists
- young people's mental health and wellbeing,
- experience of using Day Care Services across the county. We would also welcome any research that feeds into this wider work.

What is it for?

The aim of the project fund is to enable the experiences of those that live in Oxfordshire, and access health and social care in the county, to be heard by those who develop and run those services. A final report will be produced which will have clear recommendations based on what has been heard, and this will be used to help bring about change if needed.

Who can apply?

You can apply to the project fund if you are;

- A voluntary sector organisation with a constitution and bank account
- A non-constituted volunteer or self-help group (Healthwatch will manage the project with you on your behalf)

How can I apply?

To apply you will need to fill in a short application form, telling us about your research idea, why you want to do it and how, and what difference you would like it to make.

Don't worry- Healthwatch staff can help you do this if you need, and help clarify your ideas and how you might go about the research, before you apply.

Each project can apply for up to a *maximum* of £5,000 to cover costs of the research to their organisation, and a maximum of four projects will be chosen over the year. Details of costs covered are in the project information.

What is the deadline? We have two deadline options for groups to send us their completed applications. Completed forms can be submitted by either date:

- **February 8, 2018**
- **March 8, 2018**

The application form and detailed information are on Healthwatch Oxfordshire website www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

If you are successful, you can carry out and complete your work as soon as you are ready, but all research projects will need to be completed by final deadline of **Friday September 28 2018 at the latest.**

Who decides?

Healthwatch Oxfordshire has appointed a Project Fund Panel of Trustees who will assess applications against the themes listed above. Successful applicants will be notified as soon as the project panel has met and within two weeks of application deadlines.

What role will Healthwatch Oxfordshire play?

The research will be a partnership with Healthwatch Oxfordshire. Healthwatch Oxfordshire staff can work with you if you feel the need, to develop the outline and design of your project, and support you with the research. Building on feedback from previous project fund recipients, who commented that report writing was often a challenge, this time the information collected through the research process will be written as a final report by Healthwatch and published by Healthwatch. We will ensure that you are involved throughout the write up process, and happy with the final report before publishing. (Further details on this can be found in project fund information).

What will be the result? The final report will include findings based on the research, and will be disseminated to service providers and commissioners to ask them how they will take your findings into account.