

**Community Health Councils**  
**Appointment of Members**

**Information for Applicants**

# Community Health Councils

## INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

### BACKGROUND

Community Health Councils (CHCs), supported by the Board of Community Health Councils, represent the independent voice of patients and the public who use the health service in Wales. All people are likely to experience the health service in their lives, to varying degrees and in different ways.

CHCs play an important role in influencing the way that health services are planned and delivered, to ensure the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes for the patients and public of Wales, now and in the future.

CHCs strive to represent all people in Wales; therefore we welcome applications for membership from individuals from a range of backgrounds, experiences and interests. We also welcome applications from those who may already have experience of contributing towards their CHC, as well as those who have no experience at all.

A list of the Community Health Councils and the areas they cover is at Annex 1.

Each CHC is made up of a number of Local Committees. A Local Committee represents the same area as its corresponding Local Authority (e.g. Swansea, Gwynedd or Wrexham). Local Committees each consist of 12 members of whom six are appointed by the Welsh Assembly Government, three by the appropriate local authority, and three by the local voluntary sector. Members belong to their Local Committee and are also members of the CHC to which the Committee belongs. Chairs are elected by the members from within the CHC membership.

### CHCs' Role

Members volunteering for the Community Health Council can look forward to contributing towards a range of interesting, innovative and challenging activities, intended to make a positive difference to peoples' lives.

Essentially, Community Health Councils have a statutory responsibility to scrutinise the work of the Local Health Boards and relevant NHS Trusts in their area, with a view to ensuring that services are continually improved for the benefit of patients and the public. This includes:

- Ensuring systematic, ongoing engagement with all sections of the local population, including local community groups, so that a sound cross section of the views of the public are represented within their area.
- Considering proposed new services or service changes within the context of what is happening at the time.
- Carrying out constant evaluation of existing health services.

## **Community Health Councils**

### **Board of Community Health Councils**

The Board of Community Health Councils works at national strategic level, advising and assisting all Community Health Councils in Wales. The Chair of each Community Health Council has a place on the Board of Community Health Councils, so that experiences at an area level can be fed into national strategic development.

The Board of CHCs is supported by 9 staff, including a Director, Consultation & Liaison Officer, Training & Development Manager, Business Manager, HR Manager, Information & Senior Admin Officer and Administrative Support Staff. Board Office Staff endeavour to provide support to all CHCs in Wales

### **Membership Strategy and Recruitment Plan**

The Board of Community Health Councils has developed a draft Membership Strategy and Recruitment Plan, intended to deliver three key outcomes. These are:

- To increase awareness of the work of the Community Health Councils amongst all citizens in Wales.
- To encourage a broad cross section of local communities to become members of their Community Health Council, as well as the Board of Community Health Councils, in accordance with the seven strands of equality. The seven strands of equality are Age, Disability, Gender, Race and Nationality, Religion or belief, Gender identity and Sexual orientation.
- To increase the involvement of those who are the direct recipients of health services, including people who may be marginalised or disadvantaged by society.

The vision of the strategy is:

“That people living in Wales are aware of their Community Health Councils so that they can become active members and become engaged in decision making processes intended to provide the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities”.

The draft Membership Strategy and Recruitment Plan continues to be developed, serving as definitive statement of the Community Health Councils commitment to equality, diversity and widespread representation.

### **Working with the Local Health Boards**

Community Health Councils will be required to work closely with their respective Local Health Boards, as well as other health organisations, to influence and shape the planning and delivery of health services. Community Health Councils can also work jointly on a particular issue or plan, to pool ideas, resources and offer support to each other.

## Community Health Councils

### Annex 1: Community Health Councils and the Local Authority Areas in which they Operate

Name of Community Health Council		Local Committees within the CHC
1	Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council	i. Blaenau Gwent ii. Caerphilly iii. Newport iv. Monmouth v. Torfaen
2	Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council	i. Bridgend ii. Neath Port Talbot iii. Swansea
3	North Wales Community Council	i. Anglesey ii. Denbighshire iii. Conwy iv. Flintshire v. Gwynedd vi. Wrexham
4	Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Community Health Council	i. Cardiff ii. Vale of Glamorgan
5	Cwm Taf Community Health Council	i. Merthyr ii. Rhondda Cynon Taf
6	Hywel Dda Community Health Council	i. Carmarthenshire ii. Ceredigion iii. Pembrokeshire
7	Brecknock and Radnor Community Health Council	the district of Radnorshire and Brecknock which forms part of the Principal Local Government Area of Powys
8	Montgomeryshire Community Health Council	The district of Montgomeryshire which forms part of the Principal Local Government Area of Powys including the communities of Llanrhaeadr-ym-mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn.