



Supporting and working with community groups and clubs to promote a deeper understanding of local health and care needs and experiences

Spotlight on The Disabilities Trust

The Disabilities Trust and Healthwatch West Sussex are working together to develop a toolkit, which will support healthcare professionals who are working with people who lack the mental capacity (ability) to make specific decisions around their health and treatment options. The toolkit can be used to record and evidence how the healthcare professional has worked in the best interest of a patient.

The Disabilities Trust is a leading national charity providing specialist community and residential support for adults with acquired brain injury, complex physical or learning disabilities and for people with autism.

The Trust's services include purpose-built residential accommodation, community-based housing, respite care, special education and community services, to maximise each individual's independence.

Working in partnership with those they support, their families and friends, local authorities, health authorities, housing associations and other organisations, they have established leading-edge services that meet the needs of people with complex and challenging disabilities. They are continually looking to refine their existing services and develop new ones in response to identified individual needs.

The stories and views that have been shared have shown the challenges around communicating with healthcare professionals and how use of pictures, writing things down and speaking slowly can make a real difference.

The insight from each person has been collated and anonymised and forms part of the insight and evidence that Healthwatch gather to identify common themes around what works and doesn't work for local people. **This insight is used to influence service development and can feed into:**

- West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board
- HASC - Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
- WSCC Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Safeguarding Adult Board
- NHS Sustainability Transformation Partnership workstreams (Sussex & East Surrey).

In this way, The Disabilities Trust member voices help to influence the ongoing development of Health and Social Care in our County.

Healthwatch West Sussex also share reports with the Care Quality Commission (who are responsible for the registration and inspection of services which deliver regulated activities) and to Healthwatch England to form part of the national picture used to influence national developments, such as the NHS70 10 year forward plan.

As well as collecting the experiences of local people, Healthwatch West Sussex also provide free information and advice - just call: **0300 012 0122**.
Email helpdesk@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk,
Website www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk.

The logo for Healthwatch West Sussex. The word "healthwatch" is in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The "h" is blue, "e" is pink, "a" is blue, "l" is blue, "t" is blue, "h" is blue, "w" is blue, "a" is blue, "t" is blue, "c" is blue, "h" is blue. The "o" is a green circle. Below "healthwatch" is the text "West Sussex" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

You can also follow our social media channels:
Facebook [@healthwatchwestsussex](https://www.facebook.com/healthwatchwestsussex)
Twitter [@healthwatchws](https://twitter.com/healthwatchws)

For more information about the work of The Disabilities Trust please contact:

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If you are setting up or would like to share news of a similar project we would be interested to hear from you. Please contact Cheryl Berry, Partnership Co-ordinator, email: cheryl.berry@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk