

Healthwatch Redbridge raises concerns as it is identified as the biggest loser of funding across London

Sir Robert Francis, Chair of Healthwatch England yesterday (1 November) highlighted his concerns at the depletion of funding for local Healthwatch across the country.

In a letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, Sir Robert raised his concerns and spoke of the 'perilous state of the Healthwatch network funding'.

Vanda Thomas, Chair of Healthwatch Redbridge (HWR), said: "I think Sir Robert has raised an essential issue; that funding provided from central government is not ring-fenced and has on a number of occasions been used to offset local funding crises.

This is a short term answer and fails to recognise the impact of our organisation as we see the demand for our service increase each year."

Cathy Turland, HWR Chief Executive Officer said: "Although this year we were delighted to have secured the Healthwatch contract, we remain concerned that we will struggle to build on our achievements of the last five years.

It should be noted that we received the largest reduction in funding in London and, nationally we are placed 6th out of 148 for the highest amount of funding loss this year."

Healthwatch Redbridge belongs to a national network of 148 independent local organisations set up by the government across England.

Contact Cathy Turland, Healthwatch Redbridge CEO for further information on 020 8553 1284 or email cathy@healthwatchredbridge.co.uk.

Further information

- [Sir Robert Francis' letter to Matt Hancock](#)
- [Healthwatch England 'State of Support' briefing here](#)
- [Sir Robert's Health Service Journal article](#)

For and on behalf of Healthwatch Redbridge

Ends...

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Contact details: 020 8553 1236
2. E-mail: info@healthwatchredbridge.co.uk
3. Address: 3rd Floor, 103 Cranbrook Road, Ilford IG1 4PU
4. Healthwatch Redbridge is a network of voluntary individuals, local people and community groups who work together to improve local health and social care services.

5. Healthwatch Redbridge was set up under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to monitor, evaluate and influence local health and social care services in the London Borough of Redbridge.
6. Healthwatch Redbridge is a Charity; number 1156320, and a Company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales; number 8389279. Registered office as above.
7. Healthwatch Redbridge is governed by a Management Board which Chaired by Vanda Thomas.
8. Healthwatch Redbridge is always keen to hear the experiences of local users of health and social care services whether good or bad. Please contact the CEO using the details shown above if you would like to do this.
9. Each Local Healthwatch is an independent organisation, with a membership of individuals and community groups that work together to improve local health and social care services. There is a Local Healthwatch for each Local Authority area in England and Wales, including each London borough.
10. Local Healthwatch's have a number of statutory powers to enable them to carry out their role.

We:

- have a member of the Healthwatch Redbridge Board on the Redbridge Health and Wellbeing Board and a non-voting seat on the Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Group;
- can Enter and View some premises providing health and social care services;
- can ask for information from statutory organisations such as Clinical Commissioning Groups, Local Authorities, GP's and Hospitals; and expect a response within a specific timescale;
- can make reports and recommendations for improvements and expect a response within a specific timescale; and we
- can refer matters to the local Council Overview & Scrutiny Committees for further action.