

# Volunteer Writer Opportunity

## Volunteer writer needed for Reading’s health and care watchdog

Healthwatch Reading is seeking a volunteer writer to put together articles for our websites, which help to inform the public about our work and the quality of health and care services they use in Reading. You’ll be part of a local, dynamic team that acts as a ‘critical friend’ to NHS and social services. In this role, you’ll gain experience, knowledge and the satisfaction of giving something back to your community.

### About us:

Healthwatch Reading is the local statutory watchdog for NHS and social care services. We stand up for people’s rights, collect public feedback and campaign for improvements. We also manage Reading Voice, an advocacy service that gives people one-to-one support and which also has its own website. We are run as a charitable incorporate organisation.

### The role

Ideally, we’d like someone who can pop into our central Reading office for between 3-6 hours during the hours 10am-4pm, on the same day each week.

Working under the supervision of our team manager, you’ll write about:

- opportunities for Reading people to have their say about NHS and care services;
- quality ratings given to local GPs, care homes and other NHS and care services;
- national or local guidance for the public on how to access health or social care;
- and any changes to local NHS or social care services.

You will usually be given source material to write from (and you don’t need to interview people for the articles you’re writing). There are opportunities in the future to attend and write up public meetings and/or be trained to upload articles and images direct to our websites.

### About you:

We need a volunteer with:

- good writing skills, who can convey information in an appealing, concise way to the general public;
- attention to detail, to ensure our articles are accurate and fair;
- the ability to use the Internet to research any extra information required;
- the willingness to accept editing of any articles to ensure they comply with our brand guidelines, charity values and statutory remit; and
- the willingness to follow our policies, including those covering confidentiality and information governance.

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## This role may particularly suit you if...

- you're an experienced journalist/writer wanting to give something back to the local community
- you're a student training to work in the media, communications, charity, or policy sectors
- you have an interest in, or are keen to find out about, public involvement in NHS and care services
- you have an interest in, or are keen to find out about, people's rights, inclusion and equality.

## What you'll get from us:

- supervision or mentoring from a Healthwatch Reading manager, who also has 20+ plus years of experience as a journalist
- the opportunity to build a portfolio of written work
- the chance to learn about various aspects of public involvement, advocacy, local services, and policy surrounding NHS and social care services
- the opportunity to get a written reference for your CV
- a central Reading location from where you can carry out your role in the company of our small, friendly team (and the chance to eventually do the writing from your home if you prefer)
- and finally, the satisfaction of making a difference through your contribution.

## How to apply:

Email team manager Rebecca Curtayne at [rebecca@healthwatchreading.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@healthwatchreading.co.uk) with:

- the completed application form
- one example of your own written work.

**We will contact you within one month of receiving your application.**