

# Public Experience Report

# Men's health in Trafford June-August 2017

6th November 2017

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All the community groups, events and organisations that we visited:

Be Social Community Group Broomwood Health and Wellbeing Centre - Guitar Group NHS Trafford CCG - Trafford Talks event St Johns Community Centre - Over 50's Afro Caribbean Group The Avenue Methodist Church - New Way Forward Men's Group Old Trafford Wellbeing Centre - Bike Maintenance and Woodwork Group Lostock Library - Friday Coffee Morning Davyhulme Medical Centre Trafford General Hospital Sale Moor Methodist Church - Friday Diner John Alker Memorial Hall - Breakfast Club run by Trafford Veterans @ The MESS (Flixton Ex-Servicemen Association) Age UK Trafford - The Men's Room

We would like to thank Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen for providing valuable feedback regarding their report into men's health<sup>1</sup>. Thank you to NHS GMTS Health Informatics trainee Paul Fleming for his support. Thank you also to Public Health Intelligence Analyst Kate Hardman from Trafford Council and the NHS Trafford Clinical Directors group for providing intelligence for this project.

We would also like to thank everyone who distributed our men's health survey for us and all the men that answered this survey. Without their support this project would not be possible.

Healthwatch Trafford would also like to thank the Healthwatch volunteers who helped us deliver and analyse the survey;

Ann Day Catherine Barber Georgina Jameson Kevin Costello Shruti George

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>http://www.healthwatchblackburnwithdarwen.co.uk/sites/default/files/blokes\_views\_report.pdf</u>

# Introduction

This report has been produced by Healthwatch Trafford. The Healthwatch network consists of 152 Healthwatch organisations across each of the local authority areas in England and a national body, Healthwatch England. We are an independent organisation and we aim to help people get the best out of their local health and social care services; whether it's improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow.

Healthwatch Trafford identified that most of the responses received from past data collection activities have been from women. Therefore, we did not know as much about men's experiences of local health and social care services. For example, in our recent 'Tired of Explaining: Experiences of services for ME/CFS patients in Trafford and Greater Manchester' project only 16% of responses in Trafford were from men<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, in our 'Experiences of Services for Fibromyalgia patients in Trafford' project only 6% of Trafford respondents were male<sup>3</sup>. We therefore decided to create a project which specifically aimed to listen to men that lived, worked or used services in Trafford and who were over the age of 18.

We produced a survey to collect information about whether men were regularly accessing services, which services they were accessing and to give men an opportunity to share their personal experiences. We shared this survey via local networks and visited different organisations in the community to survey and talk to men about their experiences. The first six guestions of the survey also formed July 2017's Trafford Healthwatch 100 project, the aim of which is to get a group of people signed up to regularly complete surveys. This project was promoted through the Healthwatch Trafford website, social media platforms and a local radio station.

This was an eight-week project partnered with an internship from the University of Manchester. This project took place between 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017, with a four-week data collection period.

http://healthwatchtrafford.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Fibromyalgia-Report-FINAL-1.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://healthwatchtrafford.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Tired-of-explaining-ME-CFS-Summary-Report-by-Healthwatch-Trafford.pdf

## **Executive summary**

Trafford's population as of 2016 is estimated to be 234,700 people, with an estimated 114,900 males and 119,800 females<sup>4</sup>.

Healthwatch Trafford identified that men were under-represented in the comments and views received during previous data collection activities. As a result, we have less information about men's experiences of accessing local health and social care services. We therefore decided to undertake a project that collected information solely from men in Trafford. As well as capturing information about their experiences of local health services, it is hoped that by raising awareness of Healthwatch Trafford we may increase future participation of males in data collection activities.

We collected responses from men with different demographics and from different geographical areas in Trafford (*see Demographic Information detailed on pages 19-22*).

## Conclusions

- 62% of respondents had attended an appointment with a health professional in the last 3 months, with 91% of people having had an appointment in the last year. Only 2% of respondents had attended an appointment more than two years ago. This shows that most people are regularly engaging with health care services and therefore there is an opportunity to promote information about services at these appointments and in the buildings that those appointments take place.
- 82% of people had been to see a GP in the last two years. More than 50% of people had been to see a specialist doctor, a nurse, dentist or pharmacist in the last two years. There was some variation in the number of health professionals people had seen in the last two years. Out of those that had seen a health professional, 36% of people had been to see five or more health professionals and 12% had only seen one. This shows that most people are regularly engaging with health care services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157089/report.aspx#tabrespop

- 60% of respondents said they would go to their GP to get information about local health services. 55% of people said that they would look on the internet. We do not know from this survey which websites people use but this demonstrates the importance of websites such as NHS choices, being regularly updated and promoted to people. There was some variation in where people would go, but no one said they would use the TV or radio. 18 34 year olds were the most likely to go to their friends and family for information, with 37% reporting this. Between the age of 18 -65 most people reported they would use the internet for this information, with 35 44 year olds being most likely to use the internet, with 76% of responses saying this.
- In response to whether they would take up free screening, such as for sexual health or cancer, 68% of people said that they would definitely take up this offer. Only 4% of people said that they definitely would not take it up. The most common response, 51%, to why people would take up free screening was that they felt that they had a responsibility to look after their health. The most common reason, 67%, for people saying they might not take up screening was that they did not consider their health to be a priority. As most people said that they would take up free screening, promotion of screening opportunities should be increased in areas where people have contact with health professionals and from the health professionals themselves, particularly in areas where take up rates are currently low.
- 69% of respondents said that if they needed help with their mental health they would go to their GP. 10% said that if they needed help they would not know where to go. This shows that increased promotion of existing services is needed, particularly at points of contact with health professionals given that 91% of respondents regularly access health services.
- There were a range of reasons given in response to what in particular helps them to stay happy and healthy. These varied from 39.6% responding physical activity and 38.9% responding their friends/family to other reasons such as 20.8% giving hobbies as their answer, and 9.4% saying that a good work-life balance helped them. Only 3.4% of respondents said that money helps them to stay happy and healthy. This suggests that social prescribing<sup>5</sup> could help more people access social groups and activities that might increase their happiness.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/social-prescribing</u>

- 45% of people said that nothing prevented them from going to see a health professional. 15% responded that long waiting times for appointments prevented them, which was the most common reason given. Other barriers included respondent's busy schedules with 9% reporting this and 8% citing fear as a reason. It would be worth considering what the reality is compared to their expectations of factors such as waiting times and opening hours. This could also suggest that more education is needed about alternative services available, as well as availability of evening and weekend services.
- 72% of respondents said that to improve the health care service provided to them they would make changes to the appointment system. Many people thought that the waiting time for appointments was too long. This figure is much higher than indicated in Healthwatch Blackburn and Darwen's 'Blokes View' project where 21.3% of men there thought that it was difficult to make an appointment with a GP<sup>6</sup>. This suggests that this problem is not only specific to Trafford.
- 64% of respondents were satisfied with healthcare treatment that they have received in the past. 13% of people said that they were definitely not. There were some slight geographical variations in how satisfied people were with health care treatment. This suggests that there is room to improve health care services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>http://www.healthwatchblackburnwithdarwen.co.uk/sites/default/files/blokes\_views\_report.pdf</u>

## Recommendations

#### Appointment Systems

• Healthwatch Trafford recommends that particular attention is paid to appointment systems in the re-design of delivery models such as New Models of Care<sup>7</sup>. We found that 72% of respondents said they wanted changes to health care appointment systems.

### <u>Mental Health</u>

• We recommend that a review of available information and publicity around mental health services is conducted. This is because we found that 13% of respondents didn't want or know where to access help if they needed it in regard to their mental health.

### **Communication**

 It is important that health care information is communicated effectively, especially regarding appointments. We found that 55% of respondents reported that they faced barriers in going to see a health professional. This suggests there may be scope to improve people's awareness of what the reality is compared to their expectations in terms of issues like waiting times. More education is needed about alternatives, including NHS 111 and the availability of weekend and evening services. As we know the vast majority of people are attending appointments with health professionals, every opportunity should be taken to educate people of these services, e.g. Leaflets at reception desks or posters on waiting room walls, as well as suggestion from the health professional themselves.

### Information

• We think that increased promotion of information could occur at contact with health services. We found that 68% of respondents said they would definitely take up free screening offered, with a further 24% responding that they might. Therefore, we think that screening is an area that could be promoted further, especially as only 40% of those surveyed who were eligible for a 40+ NHS health check had received one.

Healthwatch Trafford also recommends that more promotion of alternative and reliable information sources, such as NHS 111 and third sector organisations such as Mind is needed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>http://traffordccg.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s1555/Al%208%20-</u>

<sup>%20</sup>iii%20Operational%20Plan.pdf

#### Further Work

- We recommend that further work is carried out looking at men's health in Trafford. Particularly, we think that it would be useful to compare the results with a study of the same survey questions but looking at the differences in responses of women in Trafford.
- More comparisons and investigations into how the findings of this report should be carried out to compare to the most recent demographic and health information as soon as the new Joint Strategic Needs Assesment (JSNA) for Trafford becomes available.

# Methodology

Healthwatch Trafford identified that men were under-represented in the comments and views received during previous data collection activities.

The survey was designed to collect information about what services men accessed and to hear their experiences of local health services. The survey was not designed to act as part of medical or clinical research. The questions were partly informed by past reports conducted by other Healthwatch organisations into men's health, particularly Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen 'Men's Outreach' project<sup>8</sup>.

This was an eight-week project partnered with an internship from the University of Manchester. Using a four-week data collection period, we decided that alongside our visits to focus groups we would utilise an online survey, which was sent out via pre-existing networks. We also made available use hard copies of the survey, which we sent out along with free-post envelopes to be returned in the post. In addition to this, we also used the first six questions of the longer survey for our July 2017 Trafford Healthwatch 100 project (find out more about this on our website at http://healthwatchtrafford.co.uk/the100/)

This project was promoted through the Healthwatch Trafford website, social media platforms and our appearance on local radio.

In total the survey had nine questions (excluding the demographic questions), four of these were 'tick box' questions and the rest were open ended. For ease, the resulting qualitative data was coded and placed into categories. We also collected intelligence from a focus group of local GPs and a discussion with a local public health intelligence analyst.

In total, we visited 11 focus groups in the different Trafford localities to collect data. At the focus groups Healthwatch Trafford staff or trained volunteers asked respondents to either fill in the questionnaire or acted as a scribe where respondents wished the Healthwatch representative to fill in the questionnaire.

The July Trafford Healthwatch 100 project collected survey responses between 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017. We collected survey responses for the longer survey, online and at focus groups, between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> <u>http://www.healthwatchblackburnwithdarwen.co.uk/sites/default/files/blokes\_views\_report.pdf</u>

## Visit dates and number of respondents at each:

4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Broomwood Health and Wellbeing Centre Guitar Group, seven respondents.

4<sup>Th</sup> July 2017 - NHS Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group, Trafford Talks Event, four respondents.

5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - St Johns Community Centre, Over 50's Afro-Caribbean Group, nine respondents.

7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - The Avenue Methodist Church, New Way Forward Men's group, four respondents.

13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Old Trafford Wellbeing Centre, nine respondents.

14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Lostock Library, five respondents.

18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Davyhulme Medical Centre, 13 respondents.

19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Trafford General Hospital, 23 respondents.

21<sup>st</sup> July 2017 - Sale Moor Methodist Church, Friday Diner, six respondents.

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 - John Alker Memorial Hall, Veterans Breakfast, 11 respondents.

26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Age UK Trafford, The Men's Room, seven respondents.

Total number of respondents from Focus Groups = 98

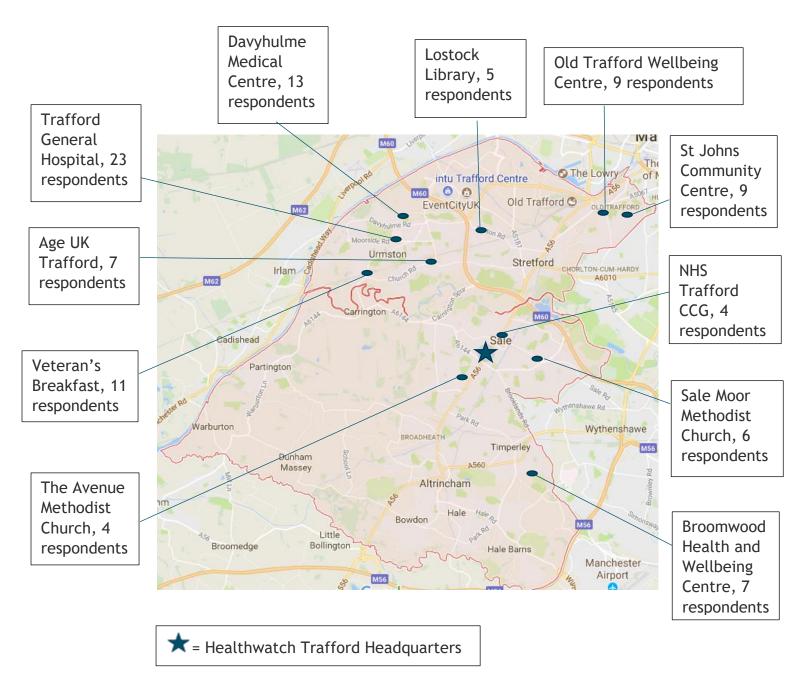
Total number of respondents from long online survey = 66

Total number of respondents from Trafford Healthwatch 100 online survey = 29

Overall total number of respondents = 193

## Location of Focus Groups across Trafford

Seeking the views of men across the four localities of Trafford, our staff and trained volunteers visited 11 groups in the borough. The map below illustrates the locations of our visits, with the number of respondents to the survey at each location.



# **Points to Note**

The survey was aimed at men over the age of 18 that live, work or use services in Trafford.

It must be clear that we at Healthwatch Trafford are not researchers. The links, patterns and trends that we have found in the data and suggested explanations we have made are speculative, made with the knowledge and experience that we have available. These are our interpretations of the information and should be recognised as such.

This was an eight-week project partnered with an internship from the University of Manchester. This project took place between 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017, with a four-week data collection period. Therefore, we primarily used existing groups and networks to access men to speak to and to distribute our survey. This is likely to affect our results because many of these men we spoke to were already using local services. It was difficult in the restricted amount of time we had to locate men to speak to and therefore we found that using existing services and networks was the most efficient use of our time.

We recognise that there are barriers in accessing the views of all sections of the male population of Trafford, particularly those not currently engaging with health and social care services. We have however used a variety of engagement methods (*as detailed in the Methodology on page eight*) to give as many people as possible the opportunity to contribute.

There is scope for deeper analysis and investigation of the results in this report (a fuller statistical breakdown can be found at <a href="http://healthwatchtrafford.co.uk/mens-health-project/full-data-analysis">http://healthwatchtrafford.co.uk/mens-health-project/full-data-analysis</a>), particularly with comparison to women that live, work or use services in Trafford and a comparison to existing statistics. We found that much of the pre-existing information available online was not broken down by gender.

# **Results**

The survey results can be found in this section.

Qualitative answers have been coded - under the heading 'categories' instead of 'answer options'.

Questions:

- 1. When was the last time that you had an appointment with a health professional?
- 2. Which health professionals have you seen in the last two years?
- 3. Where would you go for information about local health services? (tick all that apply)
- 4. A) If you were offered free screening, such as for sexual health, prostate and bowel cancer or a NHS 40+ health check, would you take it up?
- 4. B) Why did you give the above answer?
- 5. If you felt you needed help with your mental health, where would you go?
- 6. Does anything in particular help you to stay happy and healthy?
- 7. What, if anything, prevents you from going to see a health professional?
- 8. Are you satisfied with health care treatment that you have received in the past and what, if anything, do you think could improve the service provided to you?
- 9. If you are over 40, do you know about the NHS 40+ health check? Have you been offered one and have you taken the offer up?

The first six questions formed July 2017's Trafford Healthwatch 100 Project, which aims to get a group of people to sign up to be regularly sent surveys to complete.

In the following tables, the column marked responders\* is the percentage of people that responded to that survey question. The column marked surveyees\*\* refers to the percentage of people that took the survey and includes people that may have skipped the question.

# 1. When was the last time that you had an appointment with a health professional?

Response to Question	Response Count	Responders*	Surveyees**
Within the last 3 months	114	61.6	59.1
3-6 months	34	18.4	17.6
6-12 months	21	11.4	10.9
12 months to two years	12	6.5	6.2
Skipped Question	8	4.3	4.1
More than two years ago	3	1.6	1.6
I don't know	1	0.5	0.5

# 2. Which health professionals have you seen in the last two years? (tick all that apply)

Response to Question	Response Count	Responders	Surveyees
GP	155	82.4	80.3
Dentist	115	61.2	59.6
Hospital/Specialist Doctor	105	55.9	54.4
Nurse	99	52.7	51.3
Pharmacist	98	52.1	50.8
Physiotherapist	46	24.5	23.8
Podiatrist	31	16.5	16.1
Psychologist	17	9.0	8.8
Other	16	8.5	8.3
Dietician	13	6.9	6.7
Occupational. Therapist	11	5.9	5.7
Health Visitor	9	4.8	4.7
Skipped Question	5	2.7	2.6
None	3	1.6	1.6
Speech and Language Therapist	1	0.5	0.5

# 3. Where would you go for information about local health services? (tick all that apply)

Response to Question	Response Count	Responders	Surveyees
GPs and hospitals	112	59.9	58.0
The Internet	102	54.5	52.8
Friends and Family	51	27.3	26.4
Other	25	13.4	13.0
NHS 111	18	9.6	9.3
Charities and Support groups	15	8.0	7.8
Healthwatch Trafford	14	7.5	7.3
Trafford Service Directory	12	6.4	6.2
Libraries	9	4.8	4.7
Skipped Question	6	3.2	3.1
Local Newspapers	4	2.1	2.1

# 4. (a) If you were offered free screening, such as for sexual health, prostate and bowel cancer or an over 40's health check, would you take it up?

% of	
------	--

Response to Question	Response Count	Responders	Surveyees
I definitely would take it up	127	67.9	65.8
I might take it up	45	24.1	23.3
I wouldn't be likely to take it up	8	4.3	4.1
I definitely would not take it up	7	3.7	3.6
Skipped Question	6	3.2	3.1

### 4. (b) Why did you give the above answer?

#### Responses to 'I definitely would take it up'

Categories	Response Percentage	Response Count
See it as a responsibility to look after		
self	51.2%	63
To get an early diagnosis	23.6%	29
Peace of mind	21.1%	26
Family History	4.1%	5
Total answered that answered 'I definitely would take it up'		123
Skipped Question 4b that answered 'I definitely would take it up'		4

#### Responses to 'I might take it up'

### I might take it up from a positive perspective

Categories	Response Percentage	Response Count
See it as a responsibility to look after		
self	53.3%	8
To get an early diagnosis	33.3%	5
Peace of Mind	13.3%	2

#### Total answered

I might take it up from a negative perspective

Categories	Response Percentage	Response Count
Health is not a priority	66.7%	18
Worried about result	14.8%	4
Other	18.5%	5
Total answered		27

#### Total for 'I might take it up'

Total answered question 4b that answered 'I might take it up'	42
Skipped question 4b that answered 'I might take it up'	0

### I wouldn't be likely to take it up

Response Count	
Total Answered 8	
There were too few answers to categorise - however general themes included not wanting to know, screening involving too much hassle and embarrassment.	

### I would definitely not take it up

Response Count
Total Answered 7
There were too few answers to categorise - however general themes included not wanting to know and other pre-existing health issues taking priority.

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# 5. If you felt you needed help with your mental health, where would you go?

Response to Question	Response Count	Responders	Surveyees
GP	126	68.9	65.3
Friends/Family	21	11.5	10.9
<i>Other Specified Mental Health Service Provider</i>	20	10.9	10.4
Don't Know	19	10.4	9.8
Skipped Question	10	5.5	5.2
Third Sector Provider	9	4.9	4.7
Internet	6	3.3	3.1
Employer Provided Service	5	2.7	2.6
Wouldn't want help	4	2.2	2.1
Other	3	1.6	1.6

# 6. Does anything in particular help you to stay happy and healthy?

Response to Question	Response Count	Responders	Surveyees
Friends/Family	59	39.6	30.6
Physical Activity	58	38.9	30.1
Hobbies	31	20.8	16.1
Food	15	10.1	7.8
No	15	10.1	7.8
Other	14	9.4	7.3
Skipped Question	14	9.4	7.3
Work-Life Balance	14	9.4	7.3
Social Clubs/Community groups	13	8.7	6.7
Faith/Religion	6	4.0	3.1
Money	5	3.4	2.6

# 7. What, if anything, prevents you from going to see a health professional?

Response to Question	Response Count	Responders	Surveyees
Nothing prevents me	76	51.7	39.4
Waiting time for appointments	23	15.6	11.9
Skipped Question	16	10.9	8.3
Fear	14	9.5	7.3
Other	13	8.8	6.7
Busy Schedule	12	8.2	6.2
Transport or mobility issues	8	5.4	4.1
Communication issues	6	4.1	3.1
Complicated appointment booking system	5	3.4	2.6

# 8. Are you satisfied with health care treatment that you have received in the past and what, if anything, do you think could improve the service provided to you?

Are you satisfied with healthcare treatment that you have received in the past?

Response to Question	Response Count	Responders	Surveyees
Satisfied	77	51.7	39.9
To an extent satisfied	34	22.8	17.6
Definitely not satisfied	19	12.8	9.8
Very Satisfied	18	12.1	9.3
Skipped Question	14	9.4	7.3

% of

69 people that answered question eight suggested improvements.

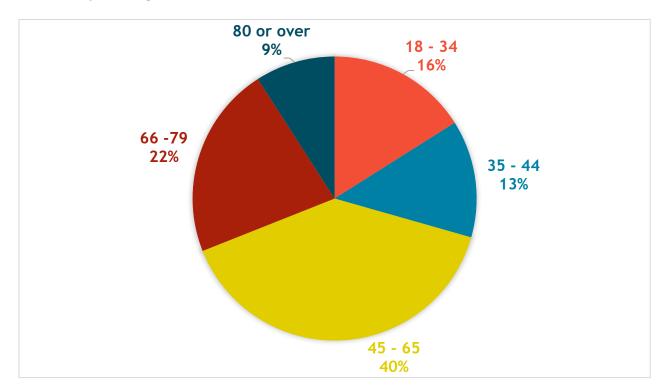
Categories	Response Percentage	Response Count
Categories	reicentage	Response Count
Longer appointments	13.0%	9
Shorter wait time for appointments	36.2%	25
More appointments not during office hours	5.8%	4
Easier appointment booking system	17.4%	12
Better communication from healthcare		
professionals	17.4%	12
Patient transport	5.8%	4
Mental Health services	5.8%	4
Shorter referral time	14.5%	10
Other	18.8%	13
Total number who suggested improvements		69

## If you are over 40, do you know about the NHS 40+ health check? Have you been offered one and have you taken the offer up?

Response to Question	Response Count	Responders	Surveyees
Heard of it	59	51.8	30.6
No	55	48.2	28.5
Offered it	49	43.0	25.4
Taken offer up	45	39.5	23.3
N/A	35	30.7	18.1
Skipped Question	14	12.3	7.3

# **Demographic Information**

## What is your age?



## In which locality, do you live?

Answer Options	Response Percentage	Response Count
Central - Sale, Bucklow St Martin's, Ashton upon Mersey, Brooklands, Priory, Sale Moor and St Mary's	18.9%	36
North - Old Trafford, Stretford, Gorse Hill, Longford and Clifford	21.1%	40
South - Altrincham, Bowden, Broadheath, Hale Barns, Hale Central, Timperley and Village	17.9%	34
West - Urmston, Partington, Bucklow St Martin's, Davyhulme East, Davyhulme West and Flixton	26.3%	50
Other / outside Trafford	15.8%	30
Answered Question		190
Skipped Question		3

## Which ethnicity do you feel most closely describes you?

	Response	
Answer Options	Percentage	Response Count
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.5%	1
Asian or Asian British - Indian	2.6%	5
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	3.1%	6
Black or Black British - African	1.6%	3
Black or Black British - Caribbean	5.8%	11
Multiple heritage - mixed race	1.6%	3
Other (please specify)	1.0%	2
White British	72.8%	139
White Irish	7.3%	14
White other	3.7%	7
Answered Question		191
Skipped Question		2

## What is your sexual orientation?

Answer Options	Response Percentage	Response Count
Bisexual	0.5%	1
Gay	4.8%	9
Heterosexual / Straight	93.6%	176
Other	1.1%	2
Answered Question		188
Skipped Question		5

Do you identify as a disabled person? (Do you consider yourself to have a disability?)

Answer Options	Response Percentage	Response Count
No	78.1%	143
Yes	21.9%	40
Answered Question		183
Skipped Question		10

## Are you a carer?

Answer Options	Response Percentage	Response Count
No	90.4%	160
Yes	9.6%	17
Answered Question		177
Skipped Question		16

## What is your marital status?

Answer Options	Response Percentage	Response Count
Divorced / Widowed	13.6%	25
Married / Civil partnership	61.4%	113
Other	4.3%	8
Single	20.7%	38
Answered Question		184
Skipped Question		9

# Do you have any children? (tick all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percentage	Response Count
Pre-school age child/children	5.3%	10
Primary school age child/children	13.4%	25
Secondary school age child/children	10.2%	19
16 - 18-year-old child/children	5.3%	10
19+ aged children	46.5%	87
No children	31.6%	59
Answered Question		187
Skipped Question		6

# What is your current employment status?

	Response	
Answer Options	Percentage	Response Count
Employed	55.3%	104
Not working - due to disability	2.7%	5
Not working - due to ill health	4.3%	8
Not working - retired	33.0%	62
Student	2.1%	4
Unemployed - Not seeking employment	1.6%	3
Unemployed - Seeking employment	1.1%	2
Answered Question		188
Skipped Question		5

# **Further analysis**

This analysis involved looking closely at the results, including a very detailed breakdown of the data which is too large to include within the body of this report. It can however be accessed on the Healthwatch Trafford website at <a href="http://healthwatchtrafford.co.uk/mens-health-project/full-data-analysis/">http://healthwatchtrafford.co.uk/mens-health-project/full-data-analysis/</a>

# Question One: When was the last time that you had an appointment with a health professional?

Looking at the breakdown of results does not indicate much significant variation from the overall results table. 91.4% of responders had seen a health professional of some description within the last 12 months with only 8.1% identified they had not seen a health professional in the last year.

# Question two: Which health professionals have you seen in the last 2 years? (Tick all that apply)

General

Here we looked at the number of health professionals respondents recorded that they had seen in the last two years. The highest response, 36%, reported that they had seen five or more health professionals in the last two years.

Age

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the older age groups saw their GPs more often, with 66-79 year olds reporting that 90.2% had seen a GP in the last year, compared to 60% of 35-44 year-olds, which was the lowest % group. 18-34 year-olds reported slightly higher numbers (78.6%), however this was still less than all aged 45 and older.

The upward trend correlating with age was reflected in those that reported having seen a hospital or specialist doctor, with the 18-34 age group at 35.7% and every age bracket after that increasing over the previous one, up to 88.2% for the 80+ group.

Pharmacists were also used significantly more by those over 66 years old.

Locality

Those in the North (50%) or Central Trafford (54.3) were less likely to have seen a dentist than those in the South (69.7) or West (72%).

People in the North and West were more likely to have seen a hospital or specialist doctor.

Respondents in the North were more likely to have used a pharmacist (75%), with those in Central Trafford the least likely (37.1%)

#### Disability

The respondents that identified as having a disability were more likely to have seen a hospital or specialist doctor (77.5%) or Nurse (77.5) than those that did not identify as having a disability (47.8% and 44.2% respectively). They were also more likely to have used a pharmacist (72.5% vs 47.1%)

#### Carer

Those that identified as being a carer or having caring responsibilities were less likely to see a dentist (41.2%) than those that did not identify as being a carer or having caring responsibilities (65.2%).

#### Employment Status

Those that were classified as not working due to disability, not working due to ill health or retired were more likely to see more health professionals than those in employment.

# Question three: Where would you go for information about local health services? (tick all that apply)

The most popular responses were GPs and hospitals (59.9%) and the internet (54.5%). NHS 111 was used by less than 10% of people and the Trafford service directory was used by only 6.4% of people. Friends and family was the other significant resource used by respondents, identified by 27.3%.

Age

Looking at the correlation between the age of the respondents and where they were likely to go for information about local health and services, between the ages of 18 and 65 the internet was the most likely place people would go for information. The age group 35-44 had the highest percentage of respondents reporting they would use the internet, with 76% reporting this. The highest response for the 18-34 age category, 37%, reported that they would go to their friends and family for information.

The 66-79 and the 80 or over age categories both had 'GPS and hospitals' as where they would most likely go for information, with 71% of 66-79-year-old respondents reporting this and 82% of those aged 80 or over.

Locality

In the North of the borough and the west, GPs and hospitals was the most popular answer (75% and 64% respectively), whereas in the South and Central Trafford, the internet was the most popular resource.

#### Disability

Those that identified as being disabled were much less likely to use the internet to get information about local services (32.5%) compared to those that did not identify as disabled (61.3%).

#### Marital status

Respondents that were divorced or widowed were more likely to get their information from GPs and hospitals than the other groups (84%), but less likely to use the internet as a response than the others (40%).

#### Employment status

The groups Not working - due to disability and Not working - retired were more likely to go to a GP or hospital for information than employed people, but less likely to use the internet.

# Question four (a): If you were offered free screening, such as for sexual health, prostate or bowel cancer or a NHS 40+ health check, would you take it up?

Overall 92% said they might or definitely would take up screening if it was offered to them, with only 8% saying they wouldn't be likely to or they wouldn't.

There didn't appear to be much significant variation from this on more detailed breakdown.

# Question 5 - If you felt you needed help with your mental health, where would you go?

The most popular answer by a long way was to speak to their GP (68.9%).

Age

The number that would go to a GP was lower amongst the 18-34 age group (55.6), who were more likely than any other age group to go to another Specified Mental Health Service Provider (22.2%) or to friend and family (18.5%)

Those respondents over 66 were more likely to say they didn't know where to go.

# Question 6 - Does anything in particular help you to stay happy and healthy?

Friends/family, physical activity and hobbies were the most popular answers.

Age

Physical activity is most important in the 45-65 age group (50.9%), building up from 32% in the 18-34 category than tailing off to just 17.6% in the 80+ group.

At that stage, the 45-65 age group had the lowest for Friends and family, before increasing with age.

Hobbies are more important to those aged 44+ compared to those younger.

More people say nothing in particular helps them stay happy and healthy from the age of 44 onwards.

Locality

Respondents in the North of Trafford were less likely to identify physical activity as helping them stay happy and healthy (25%) than the South, West and Central areas (46.2%, 43.6% and 43.3% respectively).

Physical activity was more important to those respondents that identified as not being disabled compared to those that did identify as disabled (43.2% vs 30.3%), whereas the importance of social clubs/community groups showed the opposite (2.7% vs 27.3% respectively)

# Question 7 - What, if anything, prevents you from going to see a health professional?

Most respondents said nothing prevents them seeing a health professional (51.7%), with waiting times being the most identified barrier (15.6%).

Age

A busy schedule was identified as a barrier for 33% of 18-34 year-olds - much higher than any other group. They were also the least likely group to say nothing prevents them from seeing a health professional (25%), along with the 34-44 age group (29.4), whereas those 45 and over were much more likely to say nothing prevents, them with the 66-79 year-old age group having 74.3% saying so.

#### Locality

Those in the central locality were least likely to say that nothing prevented them from seeing a health professional (37.9%), compared with over 53% for each of the other localities.

Employment status

Retired people were most likely to say nothing prevents them from seeing a health professional (70.2%), compared to employed people, of whom 40% said nothing prevented them.

# Question eight: Are you satisfied with health care treatment that you have received in the past?

51.7% of respondents said they were satisfied with the health care treatment they had received.

Comparison of where people live and how satisfied they are with the health care treatment they have received

- ST = Satisfied
- VST = Very satisfied
- TES = To an extent satisfied
- DNS = Definitely not satisfied
- *RP* = *Response Percentage*
- RC = Response Count

**Central** - Sale, Bucklow St Martin's, Ashton upon Mersey, Brooklands, Priory, Sale Moor and St Mary's

North - Old Trafford, Stretford, Gorse Hill, Longford and Clifford

**South** - Altrincham, Bowden, Broadheath, Hale Barns, Hale Central, Timperley and Village

West - Urmston, Partington, Bucklow St Martin's, Davyhulme East, Davyhulme West and Flixton

Locality											
	Central		North	North		South		West		Other/Outside Trafford	
Categories	RP	RC	RP	RC	RP	RC	RP	RC	RP	RC	
ST	<b>58.6</b> %	17	48.3%	14	<b>48.</b> 1%	13	<b>53.8</b> %	21	57.1%	12	
VST	10.3%	3	17.2%	5	22.2%	6	7.7%	3	4.8%	1	
TES	20.7%	6	34.5%	10	7.4%	2	25.6%	10	28.6%	6	
DNS	10.3%	3	10.3%	3	22.2%	6	12.8%	5	<b>9.5</b> %	2	
Total answered		29		32		27		39		21	
question		29		32		27		39		ZI	

#### Location

Comparison between how satisfied respondents said they were with health care treatment they have received in the past and where they live. All areas had a high percentage of respondents saying that they were satisfied with the treatment. Across the different localities of Trafford, the percentage of respondents that were satisfied (very satisfied and satisfied) only varied from the lowest of 62% (West) of respondents being satisfied to 70% (South) of respondents being satisfied.

Therefore, we found that there is little variation between the localities with the number of respondents that said they were satisfied with healthcare treatment they have received in the past.

Question 9 - If you are over 40, do you know about the 40+ health check? Have you been offered one and have you taken the offer up?

Just over half of respondents had heard of it (51.8%) and just under had not (48.2%). 43% said they had been offered it and 39.5% had taken up the offer.

#### Locality

Those respondents in the north of the borough were less likely to have heard of screenings, to have been offered them or to have taken them up. In the West they were most likely to have heard of screenings, to have been offered them or to have taken them up.

Those that identified as carers were less likely to have heard of the screening than those that did not.

# **Findings**

Looking at the results, we have some question specific findings.

# 1. When was the last time that you had an appointment with a health professional?

62% of people said that they had seen a health professional within the last three months. The results showed 18% of respondents had seen a health professional in the last 3-6 months and 11% in the last 6-12 months. We found that 91% of respondents had seen a health professional in the last year and only 2% of people had last had an appointment more than two years ago. This shows that the majority of people surveyed were regularly seeing health professionals.

62% report they had seen a health professional in the last three years

91% report seeing a health professional in the last year.

#### 2. Which health professionals have you seen in the last 2 years?

The responses showed that 82% of people had been to see a GP within the last two years. More than half of people had also been to see a specialist doctor, a nurse, a dentist and a pharmacist in the last two years. When looking at the number of health professionals people had seen in this period the most common number was five or more, with 36% of people having seen this many. This demonstrates that people are regularly attending health establishments and shows that most people are in regular contact with health professionals.

#### 82% of respondents had seen a GP in the last two years.

#### 3. Where would you go for information about local health services?

60% of people said that they would go to their GP for information about local health and social services. The other most popular location to go for information was the internet, with 55% of respondents saying they would go there. No respondents said that they would use the TV or Radio for information.

During further analysis, we compared respondents ages with where they would go for information. We found that 18 - 34

60% said they would go to their GP for information about local health

year olds were the group most likely to go to their friends or family for information about local health services, with 37% saying this. We found that between the ages of 18 - 65 the internet was the most popular place to go for information, and that the age group 35 - 44 were the most likely to go on the internet for this information. This suggests a need to promote online reliable websites such as NHS Choices.

# 4. A) If you were offered free screening, such as for sexual health, prostate and bowel cancer or a NHS 40+ health check, would you be likely to take it up?

68% people said that they would definitely take up free screening, with a further 24% responding that they might. Only 4% of people said that they would definitely not take up screening offered. The evidence suggests that most men in Trafford recognise the importance of screening.

68% of respondents said they would definitely take up free screening

#### 4.B) Why did you give the above answer?

This was an open-ended question and we looked at the comments based on what the respondent had answered in the previous question. 51% of people that answered 'I definitely would take it up' to the previous question said it was because they saw it as their responsibility to look after their health. Other reasons respondents gave were because they would want an early diagnosis (24%) and for peace of mind (21%).

Due to differences in interpretation, the 'I might take it up' box resulted in responses that were both positive and negative. 15 people responded with a positive answer to 'might' and 27 responded with a negative answer. Of the positive 'might's, 53% said it was because they had a responsibility to look after themselves. Of the negative 'might's, 67% said they only might take up screening because their health is not a priority. We decided that as 'I wouldn't be likely to take it up' and 'I definitely would not take it up' only had eight and seven responses there were too few answers to split into categories.

Some comments received:

"Regular check-ups are always good!"

"Shamefully, I would require the appointment to fit into my schedule and I tend not to prioritise health".

"Any available health checks would be beneficial, both in giving peace of mind as well as catching health problems at an earlier stage".

"My dad had screening for prostate cancer which involved lots of tests. It turned out he didn't have it, but the sound of all the tests puts me off!"

"Don't worry that much about my health - it is not a priority".

"Don't seek out but would take up if offered".

"You don't get much information on a day to day basis about screening/preventative measures. At university, there were some good screening initiatives but I wouldn't have done it if there hadn't been - I don't seek screening out".

The above two comments demonstrate the need to advertise the importance and the availability of testing and encourage health professionals to promote.

## 5. If you felt you needed help with your mental health, where would you go?

This was an open-ended question and 69% people of respondents answered that they would go to their GP if they needed help with their mental health. 10% of respondents said that they wouldn't know where to go.

This shows that although most people say they would go to their GP, some respondents still said that they would not know where to go if they had a problem with their mental health. This suggests that more work needs to be done to promote reliable places people can go to access information and advice if needed.

69% of respondents would go to their GP if they needed help with their mental health. 10% said they wouldn't know where to go if they needed help with their mental health.

Some comments received:

"First stop my doctor, if I knew what was doing, but I would rely on and trust my wife to lead me".

"I wouldn't know where to go now I have been discharged from the mental health service".

"GP and let them advise."

"Friend who would give me advice".

"Doctor - but I probably wouldn't bother or feel like I needed to go".

"Don't really know where I would go. I suggest maybe my GP or go online - I am aware of the 'talking services' that they have online I might use".

6. Does anything in particular help you to stay happy and healthy?

This was an open-ended question and no response got over 50%. Similar numbers of people responded with physical activity (39%), friends/family (40%) and hobbies (21%). 10% of people responded that there wasn't anything in particular that helped them to stay happy and healthy.

This suggests that health professionals could make further use of social prescribing<sup>9</sup> which may increase people's health and wellbeing in the community.

Some comments received:

"Football and my wife. Unemployment is a reason I am not very happy".

"Family, diet and physical and social activity".

"Having some time for yourself. Stress can be difficult especially to do with work".

"Alcohol helps me to stay happy. Local support centres are also good".

## 7. What, if anything, prevents you from going to see a health professional?

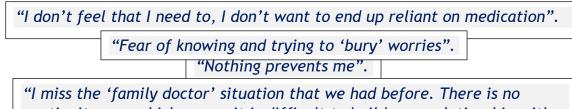
This question was open-ended and 45% of respondents said that nothing prevented them from going to see a health professional.

The remaining 55% of people that said that one or more factors prevented them from seeing a health professionals gave a range of reasons. 72% of respondents thought that the appointment system could be improved, with 15% specifically mentioning that the wait time for appointments should be shorter.

This indicates that there is a need to improve people's awareness of what the reality is compared to their expectations of factors such as waiting times and opening hours. This also suggests that more education is needed about alternative services available to people as well as the availability of evening and weekend services.

45% of respondents said nothing prevented them from seeing a health professional.

### Some comments received:



continuity now which means it is difficult to build up a relationship with the doctor, many of the GPs are only there for a couple of months. If you do want to see a specific doctor you can be waiting for a month". "Time - have to fit in around work. I don't like taking time off and some other members of staff have had to take some morning time off to go to the doctors. I am registered with a GP but I find myself regularly using a walk in centre instead because it can take so long to get an appointment".

"Not registered with a local GP".

"My own stubbornness! Time is a problem as well - my excuse is that I have got too many things to do. Getting an appointment with my GP can be really difficult; feels like I need to know that I'm going to be poorly two weeks before I'm ill, just so I have an appointment lined up".

8. Are you satisfied with health care treatment that you have received in the past and what, if anything, do you think could improve the service provided to you?

For ease of understanding, as this was an open-ended question, responses were first grouped into how satisfied the person was. The categories were 'very satisfied', 'satisfied', 'to an extent satisfied' and 'definitely not satisfied'. Overall 64% of respondents said that they were satisfied with the service provided to them. To break it down 52% of respondents said that they were 'satisfied' with the treatment they have received and 12% respondents said they were very satisfied.

In our 'to an extent satisfied' section we included responses that said they were very happy with treatment they had received from one service provider, but very unhappy with treatment they had received from another. 23% of respondents were to an extent satisfied.

13% reporting they were definitely not satisfied. This suggests that health care providers do have some work still to do to improve patient experience.

64% were satisfied with health care treatment they have received in the past.

13% said they were definitely not satisfied with treatment provided to them in the past.

Some comments received:

## "Yes - my GP is superb"

"The GP does not give you much time and gets rid of you as quick as possible."

"Yeah really satisfied overall, received good treatment. Not always solved the problem but not the fault of the health professionals".

"I always seek more than my regular GP's opinion. I think there is too much emphasis on medication - I prefer the natural route. There is still a lot of stigma with mental health, sadly even in the NHS. I have been treated badly in the past in the area of mental health".

Overall 69 people suggested improvements.

Therefore, even though 64% of respondents said that they were satisfied only 54% did not suggest any improvements.

The largest area for suggested improvement was shorter waiting times for appointments with 36% saying this. Furthermore, 17% of people wanted easier appointment booking systems and 17% of people also thought that communication from healthcare professionals could be improved.

"Yes but sometimes I have to be very insistent with the GP when I think I require a health check. The time that they give you is not enough. I go with three things wrong with me but by the time I have told them about the first problem the time is up. They can't always do their job properly in the time given."

"Satisfied completely with the service apart from waiting times."

"Moderately satisfied. Would appreciate more time/care being taken at appointments and health professionals being clearer on referrals process."

"In Trafford, homeless people are brushed under the carpet and there's no services for them. Getting a GP is OK, I could use a church address in order to register, but getting a dentist is really difficult - I don't have one, haven't been for ages. Nobody can tell me where to find out who will take me. If I have a

"It has been really hard to get an appointment, sometimes it takes a whole day to get through on the phone and then there are often long waiting times for appointments and referrals. Often I have asked for a second opinion."

## 9. If you are over 40, do you know about the 40+ NHS health check? Have you been offered one and have you taken the offer up?

The NHS Health Check is a health check-up for those in England who are between the ages 40-74. This check is designed to check for early signs of, for example, heart disease and Type 2 diabetes<sup>10</sup>.

Of the 149 people that answered this question, 114 were eligible for the NHS over 40 health check. 52% had heard of this before, but only 43% had been offered it. 40% of people had taken the offer up and had received a check.

NHS statistics show that between 2016-2017 18.1% of the eligible population in Trafford were offered an NHS Health Check, with 9.8% receiving a check, which is 53.9% of those that had been offered one<sup>11</sup>. This was similar to North West statistics, with 19.0% of the eligible population offered a NHS Health Check and 9.4% receiving one which was 49.8% of those offered<sup>12</sup>.

It should be noted those eligible are meant to receive one every five years and we do not know from our survey when the male respondents that did receive a NHS 40+ health check had this check carried out.



"Before I was 40 I hadn't been to the doctors in years."

"I know about it and I am in the process of arranging one."

"Yes, have been offered but have not taken it up."

"No - would like to take it up if offered".

"Never heard of it".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> <u>http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/nhs-health-check/Pages/NHS-Health-Check.aspx</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup><u>http://www.healthcheck.nhs.uk/commissioners\_and\_providers/data/north\_of\_england/north\_we</u> st/?la=Trafford&laid=90

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup><u>http://www.healthcheck.nhs.uk/commissioners\_and\_providers/data/north\_of\_england/north\_west/</u>

## Appendix 1 The Questions asked for the Men's Health Project

## Introduction - Men's Health

Healthwatch Trafford is the consumer champion for health and social care services in Trafford. We are here to support your rights and choices in accessing those services.

This particular project is to ensure that the voices of local men reach the ears of the decision makers.

**The Survey:** Your feedback will remain anonymous

1. When was the last time that you had an appointment with a health professional? (tick the one that applies)			
Within the last 3 months [ ]	2 years+ [ ]		
3-6 months [ ]	I don't know [ ]		
6-12 months [ ]	Never [ ]		
12 months - 2 years [ ]			

2. Which health professionals have you seen in the last 2 years? (tick all that apply)			
GP [ ]	Psychologist [ ]		
Hospital/specialist doctor [ ]	Pharmacist [ ]		
Nurse [ ]	Podiatrist [ ]		
Dentist [ ]	Speech and Language Therapist [ ]		
Health Visitor [ ]	None [ ]		
Dietician [ ]	Other [ ] (please specify)		
Occupational Therapist [ ]			
Physiotherapist [ ]			

<ol> <li>If you were offered free screening, such as for sexual health, prostate and bowel cancer or the NHS 40+ health check, would you take it up? (tick the one that most applies)</li> </ol>			
I definitely would take it up [ ]	I wouldn't be likely to take it up [ ]		
l might take it up [ ]	I definitely would not take it up [ ]		

4. Why did you give the above answer?

5. Where would you go for information about local health services? (tick all that apply)			
Friends and Family [ ]	Local newspapers [ ]		
TV and radio [ ]	Libraries [ ]		
The internet [ ]	Healthwatch Trafford [ ]		
Charities and support groups [ ]	Trafford Service Directory [ ]		
GPs and hospitals [ ]	Other [ ] (please specify)		
NHS 111 [ ]			

6. If you felt you needed help with your mental health, where would you go?

7. Does anything in particular help you to stay happy and healthy?

8. What, if anything, prevents you from going to see a health professional?

9. Are you satisfied with health care treatment that you have received in the past and what, if anything, do you think could improve the service provided to you?

#### 10. If you are over 40, do you know about the NHS 40+ health check? Have you been offered one and have you taken the offer up?

#### About You (optional) - you don't have to answer any questions you feel uncomfortable with but the more information you give the more helpful it will be for us.

66-79 35-44 45-65 Age: (please circle): 18-34 80 or over

In which area/locality do you live in? (please tick)

North - Old Trafford, Stretford, Gorse Hill, South - Altrincham, Bowden, Broadheath, Hale Longford and Clifford [] Barns, Hale Central, Timperley and Village [] Central - Sale, Bucklow St Martin's, Aston West - Urmston, Partington, Bucklow St

upon Mersey, Brooklands, Priory, Sale Moor and St Mary's []

Martin's, Davyhulme East, Davyhulme West

Other []

and Flixton []

#### What ethnicity do you feel most closely describes you? (please tick)

White British [] White Irish [] White other [] Black or Black British - African [] Black or Black British - Caribbean [] Black British - Other [] Asian or Asian British - Indian []

Asian or Asian British - Pakistani [] Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi [] Asian or Asian British - Chinese [] Asian or Asian British - Other [] Multiple heritage - mixed race [] Other [] (please specify

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What is your sexual orienta	tion? (please ti	i <u>ck)</u>		
Heterosexual / Straight [ ]	Lesbian []	Other [ ]		
Gay [ ]	Bisexual []			
Do you identify as a disable (please tick)	d person (Do y	ou consider yourself to have	<u>e a disability)?</u>	
Yes [ ]		No [ ]		
Are you a carer? (please tic	<u>k)</u>			
Yes [ ]		No [ ]		
What is your marital status?	(please tick)			
Married/Civil partnership []	Divorced []	Other [ ]		
Single []	Widowed []			
Do you have children? (tick	all that apply)			
Pre-school age child/children []		16-18 year old child/children [ ]		
Primary school age child/children [ ]		19+ aged child/children [ ]		
Secondary school age child/children [ ]		No children [ ]		
What is your current emplo	yment status?	(please tick)		
Employed [ ]		Not working - due to ill health [ ]		
Unemployed - seeking employment []		Not working - due to disability []		
Unemployed - not seeking employment [ ]		Not working - retired []	Student [ ]	

# healthwatch



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