

Craig Hardy

Healthwatch Sunderland Volunteer Champion



I first noticed the Healthwatch Sunderland volunteering opportunity on doit.org. I was interested due to the fact I access a lot of health services myself. I read a little bit about Healthwatch Sunderland and liked the idea and premise of the organisation, so decided to apply to be a volunteer.

What I like most about volunteering with Healthwatch Sunderland is the variety. So far I have spoken on a promotional radio advert, taken part in enter and view in local care homes, engaged with community groups, attended community events and engaged with the public in doctors surgeries to get their feedback about local services etc.

You also never know who you might meet. I bumped into another Healthwatch Sunderland volunteer, June, at Pallion Health Centre when she was collecting patient surveys and I was awaiting an appointment. By then I was also a Healthwatch Sunderland volunteer and we had completed a Dementia Friends course together a short time before, but we hadn't recognised each other at the time. During our chat at the health centre, June mentioned where she lived, I also noticed her name badge and put two and two together. I said to June "You know my mam" and June replied, "Yes I do and I'm your Godmother". It's a small world.