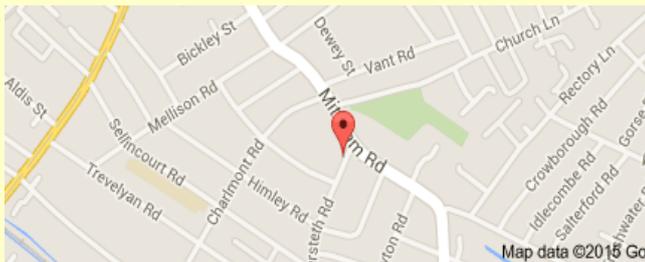


# NEWSLETTER

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We are a dynamic, independent local charity that aims to give people the opportunity to be involved, in the development of health and social care services in the London Borough of Wandsworth.



## What are we doing?

- Building Skills and empowering service users
- Increasing socialisation and wellbeing
- Reducing discrimination and supporting partnerships
- Informing and empowering service users to make decisions about their own lives
- Releasing community capacity and support community groups' development needs
- Supporting marginalised groups to have an effective voice in the community and achieve practical and sustainable change

## What we're about....

"Working to improve health and wellbeing through community involvement, collaboration, action and a stronger voluntary sector voice."



Involving, Connecting, Transforming

### **Wandsworth Care Alliance**

Trident Business Centre  
89 Bickersteth Road  
SW17 9SH

Phone number: 0208 516 7716

E-mail: [admin@wandcareall.org.uk](mailto:admin@wandcareall.org.uk)

Website: [www.wca.btck.co.uk](http://www.wca.btck.co.uk)

Charity Number: 1110178

Wandsworth Care Alliance was established in 1991 and became a registered Charity in 2005.

We believe everyone has a right to have their voice heard and most importantly listened by those who commission and run services. The work we do enables this to happen.

We work with a range of communities, particularly those who face disadvantage. Beneficiaries include Mental Health Service users, Learning Disability groups, people with addictions, physical disability communities and communities' where deprivation levels are high.

### *Meet the WCA Team on Page 2 & 3*

Jason Edgington ~ Director

Jacqueline Bedford ~ Finance Manager

John Morrill ~ Voicing Views

Delia Fitzsimmons ~ Volunteer Coordinator

Funmilayo Oyenibi ~ WLDN (Learning Disabilities)

Ambra Caruso ~ Healthwatch

Lauren Ashley-Boyall ~ Healthwatch

Hiliwona Solomon ~ Healthwatch

Alana Rhoden ~ Healthwatch



Jason Edgington  
(Director)

Jason became Director of WCA in July 2006, and has helped and supported WCA to become a successful and effective organisation that works with the local community and marginalised groups to influences local services.



Jacqueline Bedford  
(Finance Manager)

Hi, I'm Jackie; I do the finance stuff that goes on behind the scenes at WCA, I have been working for WCA since 2006.

I am often the first point of contact for clients/visitors and business associates.

On many occasions, my work for WCA requires me to work independently, as when dealing with suppliers or financial issues, as well as contributing to the team when ever necessary.



Delia Fitzsimmons  
(Volunteer Coordinator)

I have been working as a Volunteer Coordinator at WCA for 2 years and thoroughly enjoy the work I do and the people I work with. I also Project Manage Social Sundayz Club, which is a meaningful peer led initiative for people with drug and alcohol issues. The Drug & Alcohol Service User Involvement project and Skill Swap (3 month pilot), which is a small organisational time bank with the aim of putting together small community based organisations in a skill/time bank.



Funmilayo Oyenibi  
(WLDN)



The Wandsworth Learning Difficulties Network is a service user involvement project at WCA, Its aim is to empower people with Learning Disabilities and their carers, to speak up and express their views about the services that matter to them and contribute to the development and improvement of these services.



John Morrill  
(Voicing Views)



Voicing Views is a Mental Health service user project that works with the Mental Health Trust, CCG and Adult Social Services on matters relating to the delivery and development of mental health services in the borough.



Ambra Caruso  
(Healthwatch Manager)

Congratulations to Ambra  
On the birth of her twin girls

*(Ambra is currently on Maternity Leave)*



Lauren Ashley-Boyall  
(Interim Healthwatch  
Manager)

Hi, I'm Lauren and I'm the Interim Manager here at Healthwatch, covering until our Manager Ambra Caruso returns from Maternity Leave in May 2015. I started in May 2014; I am really enjoying getting stuck into the role. My job is really to co-ordinate and oversee all of the Healthwatch functions, provide support to the staff team and our volunteers acting a link between the membership, our staff, our Healthwatch Representatives and our Executive Board. It is my job to collate all of the feedback that has been collected from our local people and make sure that this is taken to the appropriate forum by one of our Healthwatch Representatives.

Check out our website for updates on how what you have told us has made a difference, or become a member to receive our newsletter visit [www.healthwatchwandsworth.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchwandsworth.co.uk). You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Alana Rhoden  
(HealthWatch  
Administrator)

My name is Alana, and I'm the administrator at Healthwatch Wandsworth. My job is enjoyable because it is varied and involves taking care of day-to-day admin tasks as well as communicating with our members both electronically and face to face at our public meetings. I have also recently taken over writing our newsletter, which is an interesting and challenging addition to my other duties. What I like most about working for Healthwatch is being able to make a real, visible difference to the health care services provided in Wandsworth."



Hiliwona Solomon  
(Healthwatch Information  
& Signposting Officer)

Hi folks, my name is Hiliwona. I first moved to London from Scotland in 2009 and have since been working in the health and social care sector, both at home and abroad. I've always been hugely passionate about health equality and social justice and this has influenced the various jobs I've done. Before coming to Healthwatch Wandsworth I worked abroad in Malawi, Africa with an NGO working with those affected by HIV/AIDS and previous to this I also worked with the predecessor to Healthwatch in Essex, where I was the area Coordinator for the Essex and Southend Local Involvement Network (LINK).

I've been in the role of Information and Communication Officer since May 2013, working to build and shape the brand new Information and Signposting Service. This has been an exciting (and challenging) time but I'm very excited about using my role to empower people to access and utilise the services available in the borough, promoting equal access for all.

Cherill Scott

Cherill has close connections with the NHS and the voluntary sector in South West London. She was a founder member of the Wandsworth & East Merton Community Health Council, has since served on several local NHS boards and committees, and is now a member of St George's shadow Council of Governors (representing Healthwatch Wandsworth). Her career has been in academic research, where she specialised in the evaluation of new models of healthcare provision.

Elizabeth Berner

It has been the range of different projects supported by WCA which has been a surprise to me as a new Trustee in 2014. Particularly impressive recently have been the *Community Audit* model developed for North Battersea and arising from it the pilot *Skill Swap* scheme both easily transferable to other areas of the borough. The scope of the *Voicing Views* project for mental health service users has been focusing for example on improving discharge procedures around Community Mental Health teams. *Social Sunday* is a peer- led café initiative for those seeking support to manage drug and alcohol dependence. Some of those volunteers involved in organising the sessions were willing to talk to us about why these made a difference to their week and they provided a sample of the fine afternoon tea they regularly lay on. This has now happily been extended to *T-Time Thursday*.

Donald Roy

Donald was formerly WCA Chair and is Currently Chair for Healthwatch Wandsworth, a member of Wandsworth Health and Well Being Board, a lay member London New Cancer Drugs Group and Secretary and Roehampton Forum.

Currently member of Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) and the Royal Economic Society (RES).

Sylvia Bernard

Sylvia is our longest serving board member

**WCA**  
**Trustee/board members**  
**Page 4 & 5**

Cherill Scott - (Chair)  
Elizabeth Berner  
Donald Roy  
Carol Varlaam  
Clive Norris  
Sylvia Bernard  
Jeremy Cowper

*Respect your fellow human being, treat them fairly, disagree with them honestly, enjoy their friendship, explore your thoughts about one another candidly, work together for a common goal and help one another achieve it!*



Clive Norris

Clive is a former senior civil servant, and a qualified accountant. He was educated at Cambridge University and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He ended his Whitehall career in 2009 as Human Resources Director in the Department for Communities and Local Government; he had previously been Finance Director.

Since then he has concentrated on a range of voluntary activities, including work with various local charities, and on writing a book on the origins of Methodism, as a PhD student at the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, a long-term Wandsworth resident, Clive is married with two children.

Carol Varlaam

Dr Carol Varlaam is currently a Trustee and Vice-Chair of the St George's Hospital Charity and Lay Member of the Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group.

Carol was previously Chair of the Merton Sutton Wandsworth Health Authority, a Non-executive Director of the South West London Strategic Health Authority and a Lay Member of the General Dental Council.

Jeremy Cowper (WCA's newest Trustee)

I am excited and privileged to have the opportunity to join the WCA and take on the responsibilities of a Trustee. I want to make a positive contribution drawing on my professional and personal experience. I spent many years in Whitehall departments, with responsibilities for policies aiming to join up government services and encourage a greater user focus; and with an interest in sharing knowledge and understanding across the public management sectors. I see how WCA, through its members and volunteers, staff and partners is making a reality of those ideas and building on them – especially in helping service users shape services so that providers can better deliver what they set out to do and improve outcomes for the community.

*Whether we want them or not, the New Year will bring new challenges....*



*Whether we seize them or not, the New Year will bring new opportunities!*



*Those who can laugh without cause have either found the true meaning of happiness or have gone stark raving mad!!*



## DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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Here at WCA, volunteering is vital to helping us do what we do.

We offer a range of volunteering activities that allow people with all abilities to experience the different elements of the work we do whilst, being supported and allowed to develop new and existing skills.

The volunteering roles WCA offer are about supporting the work of our various projects and actively getting involved in supporting our service users and the wider community.

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator Delia today

Telephone: 020 8516 7766

Email: [delia@wandcareall.org.uk](mailto:delia@wandcareall.org.uk)

## Get involved.....

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*We are on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.wca.btck.co.uk](http://www.wca.btck.co.uk)

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**Involving, Connecting,  
Transforming**