

Record keeping & retention

September 2022

Information retention policy statement

We keep accurate, proportionate records to:

- Provide a high-quality service to patients and the public.
- Provide feedback to health and social care services
- Ensure good support and supervision to volunteers
- Comply with all employment, charity and company legal requirements
- Publicise our activities
- Comply with quality assurance systems.

All records are made and held in accordance with the principles of the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. Engaging Communities Solutions responsibility is to ensure that Healthwatch Halton's activities, whether solely or as part of another organisation, are covered by our registration with the Information Commissioner's Office.

We keep records for the period specified in the procedure below.

This policy was adopted on 15/09/2022 and will be reviewed on 01/09/2024

Name of Chair: **Kath Parker**

Signature of Chair:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Parker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Retention schedule

Retention of records in Healthwatch Halton

Employment Staff and volunteer records should be retained for six years after the end of employment but need only to contain sufficient information to provide a reference (e.g. training and disciplinary records).

Copies of any reference should be retained for six years after the reference request. Director's files should be kept for six years.

Application form	Duration of employment, destroy when employment ends
References received	Duration of employment, destroy when employment ends
Sickness and maternity records	Six years from the end of employment
Annual leave records	Six years from the end of employment
Unpaid leave/special leave records	Six years from the end of employment
Records relating to an injury or accident at work	12 years
References given/information to enable a reference to be provided	Six years from the end of employment
Recruitment and selection material (unsuccessful candidates)	Six months after recruitment is finalised
Disciplinary records	Six years after employment has ended
Statutory maternity pay records, calculations and certificates	Retain while employed and for seven years after employment has ended
Redundancy details, calculation of payments and refunds	Seven years from the date of redundancy

Note: if an allegation has been made about the member of staff, volunteer or trustee, the staff record should be retained until they reach the normal retirement age or for ten years, if that is longer. E.g. around Safeguarding.

Public experience, e.g. observations, interviews, enter and view notes, surveys, research/engagement project data.

Comments recorded on internal databases	Retain in line with local policy
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Any paper-based comments recorded on the database.	One year (This is in case there is a query regarding an entry on the database)
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Comments and or other evidence that have not been recorded on the database.	Retain in line with local policy
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Signed consent forms	Destroy in line with above
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DBS checks

Record disclosure reference numbers. and date of the check and return to the volunteer or staff member.

Safeguarding concern recording forms

All safeguarding concern forms and related information should be kept for ten years. If the record relates to children and young people, it must be kept until they are 21 years old before destruction.

Financial records

Income tax and NI returns, income tax records and correspondence with HMRC	Six years (public-funded companies)
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Payroll records (also overtime, bonuses, expenses)	Not less than six years after the end of the financial year to which they relate
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Corporate

Employers liability certificate	40 years
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Insurance policies	Permanently
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Certificate of incorporation	Permanently
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Minutes of Board of Trustees	Permanently
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Memorandum of association	Original to be kept permanently
Articles of association	Original to be held permanently
Variations to the governing documents	Original to be stored permanently
Statutory registers	Permanently
Membership records	20 years from the commencement of membership register
Rental or hire purchase agreements	Six years after expiry
Others	
Deeds of title	Permanently
Leases	12 years after the lease has expired
Accident Books	Three years from the date of the last entry (or, if the accident involves a child/ young adult, then until that person reaches the age of 21).
Health and safety policy documents	Retain until superseded
Assessment of risks under health and safety legislation	Retain until superseded

