

Press Release

For immediate release: 9/8/14

Healthwatch Shropshire Urges Public to Speak Out over Hospital Services

Healthwatch Shropshire is urging local people to get involved in NHS Future Fit discussions about the development of hospital services in the county. Plans have been drawn up for public deliberation at NHS events to be held across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales during August and September and people are strongly encouraged to attend.

Jane Randall-Smith, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said: "If you want to help shape the future of hospital services over the next 20 years, this is your chance. The events in August and September will allow you to hear from doctors and NHS managers exactly what the options are concerning Accident and Emergency services, the location of any new hospital and for increased provision of services in the community - and to tell them what you think."

Healthwatch Shropshire has already contributed knowledge and expertise from the patient perspective to discussions about the reconfiguration of local services as part of the NHS Future Fit programme. However, as an independent body its objective is to ensure that local voices are heard and that the programme delivers optimum care for the local population in Shropshire.

Healthwatch Shropshire will be attending all the events in Shropshire to listen to people's views and to ensure that these are passed on to those who need to hear them.

Events are taking place at Wem, Telford, Newtown, Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Newport and Ludlow and further information can be found at www.nhsfuturefit.co.uk/workshops 0121 612 2805

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Contact:

Jane Randall-Smith, Chief Officer Tel: 01743 237884
Healthwatch Shropshire, 4 The Creative Quarter, Shrewsbury Business Park, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY2 6LG
Tel: 01743 237884 Email enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk
Website www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk

Notes for Editors:**August events:**

Friday 15 August, 10am – 2pm
Wem Town Hall, Wem SY4 5DG

Saturday 16 August, 10am – 2pm
Park Inn Hotel, Telford TF3 4NA

Thursday 21 August, 10am – 2pm
The Monty Club, Newtown SY16 2LU

Friday 22 August, 9am – 1pm
Shropshire Education & Conference Centre, Shrewsbury SY3 8XQ

September events:

Thursday 18 September, 5pm-9pm
Oswestry Cricket Club, Oswestry SY11 2AY

Friday 19 September, 1pm-5pm
Cosy Hall, Newport TF10 7LD

Monday 22 September, 5pm-9pm
The Monty Club, Newtown SY16 2LU

Tuesday 23 September, 10am-2pm
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow SY8 1AZ

Healthwatch Shropshire is one of a network of 148 Local Healthwatch in England. It is supported by a national organisation, Healthwatch England.

It has a team working in community engagement, plus a volunteer programme, a visit programme to health and social care premises and an associate membership scheme to involve the public in its work. It also has a signposting service to help people access health and social care services and support.