

Healthwatch Shropshire Newsletter

#1

Summer 2013

Report from our launch

We were delighted to welcome over 130 guests to our launch event at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on 28th June, representing a range of organisations and individuals from across the county. Board Member Gordon Grant chaired a vibrant morning consisting of a range of speakers, table top discussions and a Question & Answer session. Julia Baron from Shropshire Rural Community Council and Dag Saunders from Healthwatch England set the local and national contexts for Healthwatch Shropshire. Jane Randall-Smith, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire spoke about who Healthwatch Shropshire are and what is next for the organisation. Dr Caron Morton from Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Councillor Karen Calder from Shropshire Council, Debbie Price from Shropshire Partners in Care and Rose Humphries from POhWER ICAS all spoke about how their organisations can work with Healthwatch Shropshire.



The launch report and speakers' presentations are now available on the website:

<http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/news/article/healthwatch-shropshire-launch>

Healthwatch Shropshire

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Interview on BBC Radio Shropshire

Chief Officer Jane Randall-Smith welcomed the invitation to speak about the organisation's role on the Eric Smith and Clare Ashford show on BBC Radio Shropshire, 28th June 2013. If you missed the show, a recording of the interview is now available on our website:

<http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/media/9352>



Community engagement news

Healthwatch Shropshire as part of its future community engagement strategy aims to run a number of community events in towns across the county, with the aim of getting a better understanding of what matters most in terms of the provision of local health & social care. The events will also have an input from public health and the clinical commissioning group to help inform local communities about the issues facing the county as a whole and how these are being approached.

In order to make a success of these events we will be looking for support from local



service users and providers to encourage local communities to come and have their say.

Watch this space for future updates about our plans.

Community Engagement Officers Alan Roberts and Andrea Jones were busy meeting members of the public at Health Information Week events in Shropshire Libraries which were held 1st - 5th July 2013. Events were attended at Bishops Castle, Ludlow, Whitchurch, Bridgnorth and Oswestry libraries.

Alan and Andrea have also between them attended the Volunteer Village in the Square, Shrewsbury on 6th June, Wem Volunteers Forum on 10th June, the Shrewsbury Interfaith Forum on 11th June, the Oswestry Volunteers Forum on 12th June, the Central Volunteers Forum in Shrewsbury on 13th June and the Age UK Open Day in Shrewsbury on 27th June.

If you would like Alan or Andrea to speak to a local group about what Healthwatch Shropshire can offer your members or to have a stand at an event you are running, please contact them.

Alan Roberts (South Shropshire) Tel 01743 342184 Email alan.roberts@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk
Andrea Jones (North Shropshire) Tel 01743 342180 Email andrea.jones@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk

Future events include:

1st August: Community Event at Rocksprings Community Centre, Ludlow, 10am-1pm

9th & 10th August: Shrewsbury Flower Show Stand 51, Avenue B, 10am-6pm

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14th August: Community Event at Craven Arms Community Centre, 10am-1pm

20th August: Bishops Castle Senior Safety Day, 9am

11th August: Meole Senior Safety Day, 9am



Enter and View

The Healthwatch England train the trainer session was a great success and we are just waiting for them to send through the final materials before we start putting together our training package. We are grateful for the many applications we have received from people for the Enter and View role. Our first volunteer induction session was well attended and we hope to run another very soon.

Volunteering news

Our Volunteer and Involvement Officer, Kate Prescott, would like to hear from anyone who has an interest in volunteering. We are looking for individuals interested in being an Enter and View visitor, Community Champion or Specialist Lead. For more information on the roles and how to apply please visit our website or contact Kate.

Tel 01743 342181 Email

kate.prescott@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk



Representing the patient voice

Healthwatch Shropshire has been actively involved in representing the patient voice. We have responded to the Quality Accounts 2012-13 produced by the NHS Trusts which serve Shropshire. We have engaged in discussion with Shropshire & Telford Hospitals NHS Trust regarding the temporary transfer of stroke patients from Shrewsbury to Telford.

Mechanisms for engagement with providers across Shropshire and information sharing agreements are currently being developed.

Board developments

We welcome three new Board Members who have recently been appointed to the Healthwatch Shropshire Board. The Board currently has 7 members:

Alan Healey - chair
Vanessa Barrett
David Beechey
Roger Buckley
Gordon Grant
Carole Hall
Daphne Lewis

More information about each of the Board members can be found on our web site: <http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/content/meet-board>

Meet the Team

Jane Randall-Smith - Chief Officer



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Jane studied Natural Sciences at Girton College Cambridge and then Food Science at the University of Leeds. She has worked in food retailing, central government and the European Commission. Following relocation to mid Wales Jane became technical director of a legal and technical consultancy to the food industry in Birmingham. Subsequently, after a career break, Jane had a complete change of direction and was involved in the establishment of the Institute of Rural Health, an academic centre of excellence in rural health and wellbeing, before joining Healthwatch Shropshire in April this year.

Alan Roberts - Community Engagement Officer, South Shropshire



Alan has a background in training & development, human resource management and engineering across a number of sectors, that include food manufacturing, energy, therapeutic child care, business development, and more recently in the health & social care sector in a community engagement capacity.

Andrea Jones - Community Engagement Officer, North Shropshire



Andrea has a background in rural services and also in provision of care, across Shropshire. She has worked for Shropshire RCC and was recently working for Independent Care Solutions, where she continues part-time.

Kate Prescott - Volunteer & Involvement Officer



Kate is a graduate from University of Liverpool and has previously worked in volunteer management in Higher Education.

Catherine Pritchard - Information Officer



Catherine is a qualified librarian. She has worked in academic, public and health libraries.

Steph Dunbar - Administration Officer



Steph has previously worked as a Sales and Admin Assistant for Physiological Measurements Ltd in Oswestry.

Follow us on Twitter @HWSShropshire

The Healthwatch Shropshire Twitter account is now up and running. Please follow and engage with us @HWSShropshire, we would love to hear from you! Follow us for the latest information about what we are involved in, news related to Health and Social Care in Shropshire, how you can be involved in influencing Health and Social Care services, and lots more. Thanks to all those people who tweeted during our launch event; search for #HWSLaunch to see what was being discussed during the conference and in particular look out for Adrian Osborne's excellent art work!



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