

Press Release

For immediate release: 31/7/14

Healthwatch Shropshire Launches Questionnaire on Mental Health Services

How well are Shropshire people helped with common mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression? This is the question that Healthwatch Shropshire, the people's champion for health and social care in the county, is investigating. They would like to know what happens when patients first visit their GP and what initial help and information is provided.

A questionnaire has been drawn up to gather local people's experiences of access to mental health services during the last 12 months. A separate questionnaire is available to capture the views of carers, friends or family who have accompanied someone when they first saw their GP.

The findings will be included in a report that seeks to improve future services by influencing providers and commissioners of services. All contributions will be anonymous in the report.

Jane Randall-Smith, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said: "By listening to the valuable experiences of patients and those who have supported them, we hope to discover if people in certain areas of Shropshire have particular difficulty in accessing mental health services or information. We will also be looking to highlight examples of good practice."

The questionnaires are available from the Healthwatch Shropshire website under Research www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk or by contacting the office on 01743 237884 or enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk. The deadline for return of completed questionnaires is 29th August 2014.

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Notes for Editors:

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.