



Shropshire Older Peoples Assembly



Press Release

For immediate release: 21 January 2015

Managing chronic pain event

Healthwatch Shropshire and Shropshire Older People's Assembly (SOPA) are holding a joint public meeting on 'Managing Chronic Pain' on Wednesday 28 January 2015 from 10 am – 1.30 pm at the Guildhall, Frankwell, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ.

Speakers will include pain management specialists and a representative from the Shrewsbury Arthritis Group. There will be a Question Time session from the floor after the short presentations; this will be an opportunity to ask questions to the panel of speakers on any issues of concern.

The final part of the meeting will take the form of a discussion on the financial implications of the Care Act 2014 by Age UK's national campaigns team. This follows SOPA's involvement with Age UK's consultation on the national eligibility component of the Act in June: SOPA was referenced in the national consultation documents as a result.

Jane Randall-Smith, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said:

"We are delighted to be working with SOPA on this important topic. The event will help to raise awareness of pain management issues as well as give people a chance to have their voice heard on any issues of concern."

To help with numbers and booking refreshments, please register attendance by emailing office@shropseniors.org.uk or telephone Bridget on 01743 244640. Questions can also be taken from people who are unable to attend and a response will be sought where possible.

Ends

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.

Healthwatch Shropshire is the independent consumer champion for health and social care in Shropshire. It gathers the views and experiences of patients, service users, carers, and the general public about services including hospitals, GPs, mental health services, community health services, pharmacists, opticians, residential care and children's services. It also has statutory powers that it can use to influence service provision by encouraging improvements.

Healthwatch Shropshire 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.

SOPA (Shropshire Older Peoples Assembly) is open to all older people in the Shropshire Council area and also to all groups who work with and support older people. It was established in October 2011 to confront and change the perception by older people in the county of Shropshire that their interests are being marginalised. It provides a 'Forum of Interest' for older people to play a key role in the Voluntary & Community Sector Assembly (VCSA) and provide representation on bodies both within and outside Shropshire Council.

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