

Press Release

For immediate release:



New Chair appointed to Healthwatch Shropshire

Healthwatch Shropshire has appointed a new Chair to support its work as the county's independent health and social care champion.

Daphne Lewis has been a Healthwatch Shropshire Board Member since 2013. She worked in the private sector for 26 years before going on to work for the Family & Elderly Services Department at Shropshire's Community and Mental Health Trust, as it was.

Latterly she worked for the Shropshire Ambulance Service, taking 999 calls, before moving into the press office of what was by then West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Daphne is also a member of the Shropshire Patients Group, having served as Chair for two years.

Of her appointment to the position of Healthwatch Shropshire Chair Daphne said: "I have witnessed the growth and progress that has been made in representing the interests of Shropshire's patients. I feel incredibly honoured therefore, to have been asked to serve as Chair, and will continue to ensure that the Shropshire Voice is heard loud and clear by providers of both health and social care services for the people of Shropshire."

Jane Randall-Smith, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said: "Healthwatch Shropshire has been really fortunate to have had continuity in its Board Membership and leadership by Carole Hall over the last three years. I would like to thank Carole for her input to and support for HWS at the same time as welcoming Daphne as our new chair. We are in challenging times in terms of local health and social care. I am sure that Daphne will be

kept very busy ensuring that HWS continues to be the voice of local people, using their experiences to influence change and improvement in services.”

Healthwatch Shropshire is overseen by an independent board that helps to make sure that its statutory and contractual obligations are met. All board members are selected because of their skills, knowledge and experience. Board meetings in public are held every quarter and the next meeting will take place at 2pm on Monday 12 September. Venue details will be available on our website shortly.

People can let Healthwatch Shropshire know what they think about local health and care services by phone 01743 237884, by post ‘freepost HEALTHWATCH SHROPSHIRE’, by email enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk or online at www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk.

The more comments received the more influence Healthwatch Shropshire has to improve services for local people.

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.

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.

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
