

Press Release

For immediate release: 3rd March 2016

Opportunity to Give Views on Local Pharmacies

Healthwatch Shropshire would like to hear about local people's experiences of using pharmacies across Shropshire. This coincides with the stakeholder consultation currently taking place around proposed government changes to community pharmacies and the campaign by the National Pharmacy Association to support local pharmacies. Comments will help to inform a local response.

Jane Randall-Smith, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said: "We want to hear about people's experiences, both good and bad, of using pharmacies in Shropshire. For example, what sort of services do you access through your local pharmacy? Do you make use of a prescription collection service and/or home delivery service? Have you used your local pharmacy to treat minor illness or injury? How well publicised are the services available at your local pharmacy?"

Pharmacies play an important role in local communities, especially with the continuing pressures on NHS services.

Terry Harte, Healthwatch Shropshire Board member and recently retired pharmacist, said: "We already have fewer pharmacies per head of population than most of Europe and current government proposals could potentially affect the smaller independent pharmacies hardest – this is of particular concern in a rural county such as ours.

"Healthwatch Shropshire has supported other government initiatives to encourage people to use their local pharmacy and reduce pressure on the health service," he continued, "and we are concerned about the potential impact locally of the government proposals.

Healthwatch Shropshire is inviting people to share their experiences of using their local pharmacy and will respond to the government stakeholder consultation."

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.

People living in Telford and Wrekin can send comments to Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin at info@healthwatchtelfordandwrekin.co.uk or call 01952 739540.

Any feedback that is received from the public is used (anonymously and confidentially) by Healthwatch Shropshire in its engagement with local service providers and commissioners.

Healthwatch Shropshire is the local independent champion for health and social care.

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
