

## Press Release

For immediate release: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### **Opportunity to ask questions about health and social care in Shropshire**

Healthwatch Shropshire, the people's champion for health and social care, is inviting members of the public to a question and answer session about changes in health and social care services, on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September from 2 – 5pm at the Chapel Community Hall in Cross Houses, Shrewsbury.

Jim Hawkins from BBC Radio Shropshire is facilitating the annual event, which will include short presentations from representatives of the main NHS and social care organisations in the county. Speakers include Dr Bill Gowans and Dr Julie Davies from Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Councillor Karen Calder and Andrew Begley from Shropshire Council. Presentations will be followed by a question and answer session during which members of the audience can ask a question directly or through a Healthwatch Shropshire volunteer.

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

“There are so many changes taking place in health and social care services locally that we wanted to give people the chance to understand these changes as well as ask any questions about how these may affect them or their family. Anybody unable to attend is welcome to ask a question by contacting the office before the day. You can also tweet @HWSHropshire and include #changingtimes.”

Refreshments will be provided. Places are limited so booking is essential: [enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk), 01743 237884, or online <http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/annual-event>.

**Ends**

**Photo opportunity: 1.50pm at The Chapel Community Hall, Cross Houses SY5 6JH**

### **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](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk)

Website [www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk)