healthwatch Shropshire

Press Release

For immediate release: 4 November 2014

Shropshire health & social care bosses questioned

Questions about overloaded GPs, the future of Minor Injuries Units, and provision of mental health services were among the many topics raised with representatives of health and social care organisations at Healthwatch Shropshire's Annual Event: Changing Times.

The lively question and answer session was hosted by Jim Hawkins from BBC Radio Shropshire. The panel consisted of Dr Bill Gowans (Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group), Councillor Karen Calder (Shropshire Council), Kerrie Allward (Better Care Fund, Shropshire Council / Shropshire CCG) and Stephen Chandler (Shropshire Council).

Healthwatch Shropshire, the people's champion for health and social care in Shropshire, held the event to give members of the public an opportunity to question local health and social care organisations about changes to services. Over 80 people packed into the community hall in Cross Houses, Shrewsbury.

Carole Hall, Chair of Healthwatch Shrosphire, said:

"We were delighted to see so many people attend the event and take the opportunity to ask a question. Many people commented to us how informative the afternoon was. If you missed it, you can read all about the questions and answers in our report."

This report is now available at http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/documents.

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.

Ends

Photographs:

1. **Carole Hall, Chair of Healthwatch Shropshire, introducing the panel**
2. **Jim Hawkins of BBC Radio Shropshire engaging with members of the audience**

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.

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