

Press Release

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Chance to speak about Shropshire Diabetes Services

Healthwatch Shropshire would like to hear about patients' and carers' experiences of diabetes care services during October. Diabetes is a lifelong condition and over 3 million people in the UK suffer from it. In Shropshire there are an estimated 14,950 people with diabetes.

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

"We are interested in people's experiences of a wide range of local services including access to information, particularly on prevention and how to manage the condition including through diet; getting a diagnosis; and on-going treatment and care.

"The number of people living with diabetes in the UK has soared by 59.8 per cent in a decade and at present only six in ten people with diabetes in England and Wales receive the eight care processes recommended by the National Institute for Health Care and Excellence."

Each month Healthwatch Shropshire is focussing on a particular service area and during October will be featuring diabetes services as its 'Hot Topic' of the month. However, the organisation always welcomes comments about any publically funded health and social care services.

People can let Healthwatch Shropshire know what they think about local services by phone 01743 237884, by email enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk or online www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk.

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

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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