

Press Release

For immediate release: 27 April 2015

Opportunity to talk about experience of mental health services

Members of the public are invited to speak to Healthwatch Shropshire about their experience of mental health services to mark Mental Health Awareness Week, which runs from 11th to 17th May. Staff and volunteers from Healthwatch Shropshire, the county's independent consumer watchdog, will be present at six libraries across Shropshire to listen to people's concerns about health and social care and to explain how they can help.

Healthwatch Shropshire will be at the following libraries:

- Bridgnorth library on 11th May am and 15th May pm.
- Ludlow library on 11th May am, 12th May am and 15th May am.
- Market Drayton library on 11th May am and 15th May am.
- Oswestry library on 13th May am and 14th May pm.
- Shrewsbury library on 12th May from 4pm, 14th May pm and 15th May am.
- Whitchurch library on 11th May pm.

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

"We are delighted to be part of the events in libraries to mark Mental Health Awareness Week. We are keen to hear from patients, carers, and service users about their experiences of mental health services across Shropshire. Both good and poor experiences are useful in building up a picture of what is happening across the county and we use this information to seek service improvements. As well as mental health we always welcome comments about other health and social care services."

Healthwatch Shropshire also has 'Tell Us' post boxes in 11 libraries across Shropshire which give people another opportunity to get in touch and have their say. A list of locations can be found at www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/post-box-locations.

The events in libraries for Mental Health Awareness Week are being organised by Shropshire Council's Public Health team and will include a range of other organisations: the Samaritans, Trident Reach the People Charity, Rethink, Job Centres, Shropshire Mind, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Targeted Mental Health in Schools, and South Staffordshire & Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

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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