

Press Release

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Healthwatch in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin commit to working closely

Healthwatch Shropshire and Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin, the independent consumer champions for health and social care, have cemented their close working relationship by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. This formally lays out how the two Healthwatch will address issues of common concern on behalf of local people.

Carole Hall, Chair of Healthwatch Shropshire, said:

“I am delighted that the two local Healthwatch have confirmed their commitment to working closely together to benefit the people of Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin wherever they access services. We have been working closely together for over a year now and this formal memorandum of understanding cements this relationship. I look forward to continuing to build upon what has been achieved so far.”

Healthwatch gathers information and opinions from patients, carers, service users and the wider public about health and social care services in their area, then makes sure those views are used to improve services for all.

They also provide information and signposting services to support people in making choices about health and social care services and how to access them.

Healthwatch has a statutory authority to visit locations where health and social care services are being delivered in their area, observe what is happening, and report on their findings.

“We are keen to hear from anybody who is interested in volunteering to be trained as a visitor but we also have other volunteering opportunities,” said Carole.

Individuals and organisations can become associate members of Healthwatch. Benefits include receiving newsletters, being kept up to date on local health and care issues, participating in events, and nominating individuals to sit on the Board.

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Photograph:

Carole Hall, Chair of Healthwatch Shropshire with the Joint Chairs of Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin, Jane Chaplin and David Bell.

Notes for Editors:

Healthwatch Shropshire and Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin belong to a network of 148 Local Healthwatch in England. They are supported by a national organisation, Healthwatch England.

They each have 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 their work. They also each have a signposting service to help people access health and social care services and support.

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