

Press Release

For immediate release: 10th October 2014

Funding available for voluntary and community sector research

Grants worth up to £4000 are on offer to the voluntary and community sector in Shropshire. Launching the second year of its Research Grant, Healthwatch Shropshire is calling for proposals on the theme of this year's research: Exploring the Reality.

Healthwatch Shropshire wants to know what is really happening on the ground given all the changes affecting health and social care services in the county. The charity is seeking to fund research projects that will look at the services currently in existence, whether they are meeting the needs of the people in Shropshire and identify how change can be communicated.

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

“After the success of last year's fund where we were able to grant money to four projects, we are keen to give a further opportunity for voluntary organisations and community groups to carry out research. It is intended that the findings will contribute towards effecting change in the provision of health and social care services in Shropshire.”

Interested groups and organisations can find out more by downloading guidance notes and the application form at <http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/content/research> or by contacting the office. Details of the successful recipients from last year's awards can also be found on this webpage.

To help groups and organisations new to research, Healthwatch Shropshire is running a half day workshop on designing, conducting and reporting on a research project. This is to be held on Tuesday 11 November, from 10am – 2pm at The Lantern Community Building, Shrewsbury. Anybody interested is asked to book a place by contacting Healthwatch Shropshire.

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.

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

Website www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk