

## Press Release

For immediate release:

### **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 third year of its Research Grant, Healthwatch Shropshire is calling for proposals on the joint priorities of quality and access.

Healthwatch Shropshire is holding a half day workshop to help groups and organisations new to research, on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, from 12.30 – 5.00 pm at The Trinity Centre in Shrewsbury. The event will be run by Impact Consultancy.

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

“After the success of the previous two years’ funds, we are keen to give a further opportunity for voluntary organisations and community groups to carry out research. We hope that the workshop will encourage organisations to apply. It is a great opportunity to make a contribution to understanding how we can improve 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/research-grant> or by contacting the office. Details of the successful recipients from the last two years’ awards can also be found on this webpage.

There will be the opportunity to have an update on the current health and social care issues in Shropshire, hear from a previous grant recipient, and learn more about developing a research proposal.

Claire Carter from Impact consultancy said:

"This training is a great opportunity for groups that may have been put off doing research in the past because they felt it was too difficult or required a PhD! We hope to de-mystify the research process and demonstrate that once you understand the basics it's pretty straightforward.

This interactive session will give people a simple overview of how to approach research projects and different ways of collecting information."

Booking is essential, by contacting Healthwatch Shropshire by telephone 01743 237884 or email [enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@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.

#### **Contact**

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