

## **Press Release**

For immediate release:

### **Volunteers making a difference to Health & Social Care services**

Healthwatch Shropshire volunteers have been busy helping at engagement events across the county gathering comments about people's experiences of health and social care, which are then used to encourage improvements in local services.

Volunteers have worked on stands at local hospitals, markets and libraries and will be out and about over the summer helping at numerous events including the Shrewsbury Flower Show in August.

Other volunteering opportunities at Healthwatch Shropshire include helping to design and carry out surveys, conducting Enter & View visits to facilities where care is being delivered, distributing leaflets and posters, helping out at Healthwatch Shropshire's Annual Event and commenting on NHS Trusts' annual Quality Accounts.

Carole Hall, Chair of Healthwatch Shropshire, said:

"We are very grateful to all our volunteers for their hard work and for the energy and enthusiasm they bring to their roles. Without them we would not be able to reach as many people to hear and act upon their experiences of health and social care services. We would love to hear from anybody who feels they may be able to help in any way."

If you are interested in finding out more about the volunteering opportunities on offer, please contact a member of the team on 01743 237884 or [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**

### **Photo:**

Healthwatch Shropshire volunteer Sam with Community Engagement Officer Andrea Jones. Photo courtesy of Market Drayton Library.



### **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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