

## **Press Release**

For immediate release:

### **Board Meeting in Public**

Shropshire residents will have the chance to ask questions about Healthwatch Shropshire at its next Board meeting in the Central Baptist Church, Shrewsbury SY1 1QG on Monday, 10th September from 2pm to 4pm. There will be an open 'drop-in' session prior to the Board meeting at 1 pm when people will be able to talk to board members and staff informally.

Healthwatch Shropshire, the people's champion for health and social care, is opening the meeting to the public and encourages local people to attend as observers. There will be a short presentation on Social Prescribing at the beginning of the Board meeting and observers will have the opportunity to ask questions at the end. The agenda pack is on the website at <http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/minutes>

Vanessa Barrett, Chair of Healthwatch Shropshire, said: "Healthwatch Shropshire is committed to openness, transparency and our accountability to the people of Shropshire. We welcome members of the public who wish to attend the meeting and we will endeavour to answer questions put to us."

It would be helpful if members of the public could inform Healthwatch Shropshire of their attendance in advance for seating purposes.

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.

Healthwatch Shropshire also provides the Independent Health Complaints Advocacy Service (IHCAS) for Shropshire. The IHCAS service provides information, advice and, if necessary, can support people through the NHS complaints process.

## **Contact**

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