

Press Release

For immediate release:

Child mental health: is it in crisis in Shropshire?

BBC Panorama reported last week that “Britain is in the grip of a child mental health crisis and getting help is a postcode lottery”.

Healthwatch Shropshire would like to know about the experiences of Shropshire children, parents, carers and the professionals who support them. Are our children getting the help they need when they need it? If you have used the services, what do you think? Are there gaps in provision? These are the questions Healthwatch Shropshire is asking as part of its Hot Topic looking at the recently launched 0 - 25 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service in Shropshire.

This service includes two online services, Kooth and Helios, where people can access self-help, peer support, counselling and treatment. Support is offered through the BEAM drop in centres along with face to face services from a multi-disciplinary Young People and Families Mental Health Service.

Rachael Allen, Healthwatch Shropshire Chief Officer, explained: “We hear a lot in the national press about the mental health problems facing children in today’s society and the services children can access. We really want to hear about the experiences people have of local services. We gather these experiences and feed them back anonymously to those organisations who provide and pay for the services. In this way user experience can help shape the development of services so that they truly meet the needs of the young people in Shropshire.”

Healthwatch Shropshire can be contacted on 01743 237884, at enquiries@healthwatchshropshire.co.uk or online at www.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.

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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