

## Press Release

For immediate release:

### What would you do to make the NHS better in Shropshire?

The NHS in Shropshire is changing, it is developing a local plan and needs your help. The two local independent health and care champions, Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin and Healthwatch Shropshire, have set up events in Telford and Shrewsbury where members of the public keen to influence the future of the NHS in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin are being encouraged to make their views known.

The Government is investing £20 billion a year in the NHS and nationally has developed the NHS Long Term Plan. This Long Term Plan sets out all the things it wants health services to do better for people across the country. Now your local NHS needs to hear from you about what those changes should look like in our community.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said "We have launched two online surveys at <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/what-would-you-do> to gather views but we know that it is important to give people the opportunity to come together to share their views, ideas and experiences to ensure that the local plans reflect the needs of our population."

Paul Shirley, General Manager of Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin, commented "We are very pleased with the response we are getting from the surveys but know that hearing directly from people is extremely valuable and produces rich feedback that is really useful to those producing the local plan."

The Shrewsbury event is being held at The Trinity Centre, Meole Brace on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, to book a place please visit [www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk) or ring 01743 237884

The Telford event is being held at Meeting Point House, Southwater Square on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, to book a place please email [telford.admin@healthwatchtelfordandwrekin.co.uk](mailto:telford.admin@healthwatchtelfordandwrekin.co.uk) or ring 01952 739540

The two Healthwatches will be gathering together all the feedback and sharing it with the local Sustainability and Transformation Partnership who are responsible for the local plan.

Healthwatch Shropshire and Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin are the independent consumer champions for health and social care in the county of Shropshire and the borough of Telford & Wrekin. They gather 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. They also have statutory powers that can be used to influence service provision by encouraging improvements.

Ends

## Notes for Editors:

Healthwatch Shropshire is one of a network of 148 Local Healthwatch's 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.

Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin is also one of a network of 148 Local Healthwatch's in England. It is supported by a national organisation, Healthwatch England. It has a team working in community engagement, information and research, 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.

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) is made up of health and care commissioners and providers. Partners include Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council, NHS Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin STP has been created to encourage health and care organisations to work more closely together to improve outcomes and care for local people, reduce pressures on services and make best use of our financial resources.

It sets out ambitious plans for transformed neighbourhood services; safe and effective hospital care; ways in which new technology can be harnessed; and how gaps in the workforce can be filled and financial resources better spent.

Shropshire, Telford & Shropshire STP is one of 44 sustainability and transformation partnerships across England.

## Contact

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