

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calling all new mums and mothers-to-be

Are you pregnant or a mother of a child (children) under the age of 3? If so, Healthwatch Leicestershire wants to hear from you.

The Department of Health recently undertook a National Review of maternity services which resulted in the publication of “Better Births 2016”. The vision in this strategy is for maternity services across England to become safer, more personalised, kinder, professional and more family friendly, where every woman has access to information to enable her to make decisions about her care and where she and her baby can access support that is centred around their individual needs and circumstances.

One of the requirements of Better Births is for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to establish a Local Maternity system (LLR LMS) and produce a plan.

This year, the health watchdog has developed a survey that asks questions about a mother’s journey through pregnancy and how health services and professional have interacted and provided care, information and support.

The survey is designed to better understand what improvements can be suggested to decision makers, providers and commissioners about services that are used throughout and after pregnancy.

Vandna Gohil, Healthwatch Leicestershire Director said:

“As a woman goes through pregnancy they use many different services and meet with different health professionals, including midwives, GPs, public health nurses and dentists, to name a few. We are asking expectant mothers and new mothers if these services are currently working together to provide them with the best possible support. We will also be listening to health professionals and asking what can be done to better support people who use these services.”

Healthwatch Leicestershire is calling for expectant mothers, and mothers with children under 3 years of age, to complete the survey and share their views and experiences of using health services.

The survey can be found online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/68KLPN5> or on the Healthwatch Leicestershire website under ‘Have your say’.

- ENDS -

Editor notes

About Healthwatch Leicestershire

Healthwatch Leicestershire is an independent consumer champion for health and social care in Leicestershire. The organisation helps to shape and improve local health and social care in our community. Healthwatch Leicestershire is part of the Healthwatch national network, established by the Government to ensure local patients and users have a greater input to shaping and designing local services.

About Healthwatch England

Healthwatch England is the independent consumer champion for health and social care in England. The organisation has independent statutory powers, as stated in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to ensure the consumers' voice is heard and best practice is delivered in health and social care nationally. Healthwatch is also focused on providing leadership, guidance and support to the development of the Healthwatch network. To find out more please go to www.healthwatch.co.uk.