



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact Person | Stephanie Hollis |
| Company Name | Healthwatch Leicestershire |
| Telephone Number | 0116 257 5036 |
| Fax Number | 0116 257 5059 |
| Email Address | Stephanie.h@valonline.org.uk |
| Web site address | www.healthwatchleicestershire.co.uk |

18 November 2013

Leicestershire locals speak out on health and social care services

Over 150 locals in all seven districts in Leicestershire have spoken out about their health and social care experiences in consultation events run by Healthwatch Leicestershire (HWL) through October and November.

There were many common themes amongst the issues raised in all districts, such as ease of access to GP's appointments, improvement needed in mental health services and a need for services to work better together to provide a more efficient hospital discharge process.

The purpose of these meetings was to ensure that HWL puts its resources to best use by concentrating on issues that are most important for residents.

Over the next few months, the HWL Board will be collating all the information gathered at these events to compile a list of five key priorities to be the focus of their work to improve health and social care services in Leicestershire.

HWL are currently recruiting for Board members, so anyone are interested in getting more involved in setting these priorities can apply for a position on the Board. Please visit www.healthwatchleicestershire.co.uk for more information, or call HWL director, Vandna Gohil, on 0116 257 5040.

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors

About Healthwatch Leicestershire

Healthwatch Leicestershire is the new, independent consumer champion for health and social care in Leicestershire. The organisation will help 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 new, 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.