

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The new independent consumer champion Healthwatch launches across England

Healthwatch is the new independent consumer champion for health and social care and launches across England on 1 April.

This is the first time a national champion has been set up with independent statutory powers to act on behalf of both adults and children.

Healthwatch England will lead 152 community focused local Healthwatch and together they form the network.

The Healthwatch network will work closely to ensure consumers' views are represented both locally and nationally.

Healthwatch England will give a national voice to the key issues that affect children, young people and adults who use health and social care services.

It will develop an overall view of trends and consumer experiences at a national level based on evidence, strongly informed by local Healthwatch.

Local Healthwatch exists to give local people a stronger voice to influence and challenge the delivery and design of local health and social services. Whether it's improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow.

Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire is the local Healthwatch for the city and county and is being run by Voluntary Action LeicesterShire.

Your local Healthwatch will be out in communities talking and listening to people from every part of Leicester and Leicestershire in particular people who are vulnerable or often unheard.

Local Healthwatch will also provide a signposting service to give you information and help you to find out about the care choices available for you.

Philip Parkinson, Interim Chair for Healthwatch Leicester shared the vision of Healthwatch:

“Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire will support local people to speak out when they are most vulnerable, they will be heard and where required changes will be made.”

Vijay Sharma, Interim Chair for Healthwatch Leicestershire commented:

“We recognise the importance of the work undertaken by the Local Involvement Networks in improving the health provision for local people in the city and county, We will continue to engage their members and expand upon their good work to ensure Healthwatch is an effective voice for patients and public, with a particular focus on reducing health inequalities across Leicester and Leicestershire.”

Local people can get in touch with Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire:

Tel: 0116 2574 999
Email: info@healthwatchleics.co.uk
City residents: www.healthwatchleicester.co.uk
County residents: www.healthwatchleicestershire.co.uk

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Notes to Editors

About Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire

Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire is the new, independent consumer champion for health and social care in Leicester and Leicestershire. The organisation will help to shape and improve local health and social care in our community. Healthwatch Leicester and 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.