healthwatch Leicestershire

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local health watchdog wants to hear patient experiences of hospital discharge

In July, there were nearly 185,000 days of delays to patients being discharged from hospital across England[1]. In response, local health and social care watchdog Healthwatch Leicestershire has launched a survey asking how delays are affecting local patients.

Locally, there were 7,240 days of delays at University Hospitals Of Leicester NHS Trust between March 2015 to February 2016[2]. Healthwatch Leicestershire wants to better understand how these statistics fit in with the national picture and how they're impacting on local people.

The watchdog is asking patients, carers and hospital staff to share their experiences of discharge from hospital – be they positive or negative. The survey feedback will be used to make recommendations locally.

Rick Moore, Chair of Healthwatch Leicestershire explained:

"We know that delayed discharge from hospital can have a huge impact on patients, carers and hospital staff. They can be distressing and even have a negative impact on people's health. We want to hear from as many patients, carers and staff as possible on what hospital discharge is like, how it impacts them, what's working well and where improvements can be made."

There are three surveys where local people can have their say:

- Patients: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SNN8QQ7
- Staff: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2F7SGHS
- Carers: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2F27NLR

Members of the public can also visit www.healthwatchleicestershire.co.uk/content/tell-us-your-experiences-hospital-discharge or call 0116 2574 999 to find out more.

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Editor notes

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[1] http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-37307853

[2] http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmpubacc/76/76.pdf

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.

Rick is available for comment.