

news

Local news from your local Healthwatch

All the local news and coming events from Healthwatch Rutland: July 2018

Join us!

Would you like to play a leading role in shaping the future of Healthwatch Rutland? We are seeking to appoint a Chair to oversee and develop Healthwatch Rutland as the independent champion for people who use Health and Social Care services in the county. The role is for a fixed term of up to 3 years and comes with an honorarium of £2600 pa and travel expenses. To find out more about how you could make a real difference to the delivery of services to our community, see the role description and details of how to apply on our website [here](#).

We are also looking for volunteers to join our operations and planning group to help with some exciting new projects that relate to maternity services and the health and care needs of armed forces personnel and their families. In addition, we are interested to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to help us engage with the public at events, gather views via comment cards, invite participation in surveys and explain the purpose and function of Healthwatch Rutland to improve public awareness of our activities. Have a look at the volunteering section on our [website](#) to see if this could be you!

Healthwatch Quick Poll

Our Summer Quick Poll, asking how much you would like to be involved in planning your care when you are older, revealed that more than 90% of you would like to be involved in producing your care plan. None of you would prefer the decisions to be made by health and care professionals alone and 8% did not want to think about planning for being older or more frail at the moment. See the results [here](#).

Proposals to change out-of-hours healthcare services

These services, also known as urgent care services, offer GP and nurse appointments when GP practices are closed on weekday evenings, at weekends and on bank holidays. Patients in East Leicestershire and Rutland have been asked for their views on proposed changes to these services via a survey and engagement meetings, the results of which will be used to help shape the services. The survey has now closed but you can read more about the proposals [here](#).

The Arts and Dementia: Impacts and Implementation Conference

This conference in Nottingham on 20 September brings together artists, service users, carers and academics to discuss the arts as a medium for care and learning in dementia. People with dementia and their care partners are invited to apply for a limited number of free places [here](#).

NHS England announces roll-out of Red Bag Scheme across care homes in England

Under the new Red Bag Scheme, when a resident becomes unwell and is assessed as needing hospital care, care home staff pack a dedicated red bag that includes the resident's standardised paperwork and their medication, as well as day-of-discharge clothes and other personal items. It's a simple change which is proving to have benefits for both patients and the NHS. It facilitates a smoother handover between care home, ambulance and hospital staff with fewer phone calls and follow-ups made by the hospital staff to care homes looking for health information about the resident. It also prevents the loss of personal items such as dentures, glasses and hearing aids which we know has been a problem for some Rutland patients, through our visits to local care homes last year. Read more about the scheme [here](#).

Inquiry into the long-term funding of Social Care

It is widely acknowledged that spending on social care needs to rise to meet funding gaps for the provision of social care by local authorities, to meet future increasing demand, and to improve the quality of care delivered. The Health and Social Care and Housing, Communities and Local Government Committees have released a joint report on their inquiry into the long-term funding of social care. Read the full report [here](#).

Have your say!

NHS England has set out plans to stop or reduce commissioning of 17 treatments that research has shown to be ineffective or risky. These treatments include surgery to prevent snoring, removal of benign skin lesions, grommets for glue ear in children and varicose vein surgery amongst others. NICE, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, advises that less invasive or safer treatments are available and just as effective; they recommend that the 17 treatments be used as a last resort. Read more about the proposals and complete the survey [here](#) (closes 28 September).

Date for your Diary...

The Annual Meeting of the Healthwatch Rutland Board is scheduled for 19 September 2018; more details to follow.

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