

## **Healthwatch Rutland to engage with Rutland public on NHS Long Term Plan**

Healthwatch Rutland is the independent champion for health and social care in the county. Comprising a team of volunteers and staff, Healthwatch Rutland has a statutory role to make sure the voices of people in Rutland are heard on health and care issues.

Following the publication last month of the NHS Long Term Plan, Healthwatch in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) have been working on a scheme to deliver co-ordinated engagement with the public about the plan proposals.

The plan comes after the Government announced the NHS budget would be increased by £20bn a year by 2023 with the biggest funding increases expected in GPs, mental health and community care. This, it is hoped, will allow people to have care closer to home.

There will also be a focus on improving the way that people are able to interact with the health service for example, by using digital technologies such as video consultations, and local GP practices will join together in ‘networks’ caring for 30,000 to 50,000 patients. Social, hospital, primary and community care organisations will work together within an integrated system of care.

Key priorities within the plan include:

- cancer
- mental health
- care for people with two or more chronic medical conditions
- supporting people to age healthily and tackling issues such as dementia and obesity
- children’s health
- cardiovascular and respiratory diseases
- learning disability and autism
- maternity care

You can view or download the NHS Long Term Plan here:

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

Starting in March, running through to mid-May, Healthwatch Rutland and Healthwatch Leicester/Leicestershire (HWLL) will run an LLR-wide survey to gather public/patient insight on the delivery of those major themes contained in the plan. Further to the survey, Healthwatch Rutland will run local engagement events in Rutland to seek people’s views on how the themes and priorities of the plan can most effectively be delivered here.

Our local data and findings will be collated with those from HWLL in June to present the complete picture of LLR opinion to NHS England, leadership of the LLR Better Care Together programme and Healthwatch England.

Dr Janet Underwood, Chair of Healthwatch Rutland says: 'We are delighted to be engaging with Rutland people about the NHS long term plan. It is vitally important that the public get involved as this is their chance to help shape our health and social care services for the future.'

We will publish further details of events and a link to the survey on our website [www.healthwatchrutland.co.uk/news](http://www.healthwatchrutland.co.uk/news) later this month.

In the meantime, if you would like to get involved in our work by volunteering, sign up to our monthly Newsletters, or simply give us your views on the plan's proposals or indeed any other health or care matter, please email [info@healthwatchrutland.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchrutland.co.uk).

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### **About Healthwatch Rutland:**

Healthwatch Rutland is the independent champion for health and social care in the county, working to help people get the best out of their local health and social care services, whether it's improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow.

We exist to ensure that people are at the heart of care. We listen to what people like about services, and what could be improved and we share their views with those with the power to make change happen. We also help people find the information they need about local services.

As well as seeking the public's views we also encourage services to involve people in decisions that affect them. Our sole purpose is to help make care better for people.

Healthwatch Rutland website: <http://healthwatchrutland.co.uk/>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/healthwatchrutland](http://www.facebook.com/healthwatchrutland)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HWRutland>

### **About the Connected Together CIC:**

Connected Together Community Interest Company (CIC) is the legal entity and governing body for Healthwatch Rutland. It is a social enterprise and a partnership between the University of Northampton and Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire. Find out more at [www.connectedtogether.co.uk](http://www.connectedtogether.co.uk).

For further information on the above please contact Healthwatch Rutland. Tel. 01572 720381 or email [info@healthwatchrutland.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchrutland.co.uk).

