



PRESS RELEASE 30 October 2018

Healthwatch Rutland awarded bursary to set up Young Healthwatch Rutland

Healthwatch Rutland is the independent champion for health and social care in the county. It is made up of staff and volunteers who have a statutory role to make sure the voices of people in Rutland are heard.

Healthwatch Rutland is really pleased to announce that it has been awarded a bursary from the East Midlands Academic Health Science Network (EMAHSN) to set up Young Healthwatch Rutland so that young people can raise their issues and concerns on health and social care. We are one of only ten not-for-profit organisations across the region to have been awarded £1,500 each to help meet essential running costs - supporting them to start or continue vital work to increase patient, carer and public involvement in healthcare across the East Midlands.

Esther Stimpson, Lead Officer for Projects and Engagement at Healthwatch Rutland said “Young people offer a unique perspective and often see things differently from adults who are developing and adapting health services for young people. There is currently no formal opportunity for young people in Rutland and those affected by health services to feedback their experiences. Young Healthwatch Rutland will help commissioners to engage directly with young residents of Rutland and will help close the ‘generation gap’ ensuring services are relevant”.

Professor Will Pope, Interim Chair of Healthwatch Rutland said “It is absolutely fantastic that EMAHSN has given us this bursary to start setting up a Young Healthwatch Rutland. It is so important that young people are heard and not excluded in local and national health and social care debates”.

Cllr Alan Walters, Rutland County Council’s Portfolio Holder for Health also said: “I was really pleased to hear that Healthwatch Rutland have been awarded this funding. Young Healthwatch Rutland is a fantastic way of helping us to hear what children and young people really think of our health and care services so that we can continue to improve them.”

NOTES TO EDITORS:

More info on EMAHSN: www.emahsn.org.uk

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 ourselves, 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

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.

For further information on the above please contact Healthwatch Rutland. Tel. 01572 720381 or email info@healthwatchrutland.co.uk.

