

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate release

2nd January 2014

Healthwatch Wiltshire is pleased to announce the appointment of Emma Cooper as Chief Executive.

Emma has a long history of working with partners in Wiltshire and will be well known to many from her previous roles. Emma brings expertise in working with the local voluntary and community sector and is particularly interested in Healthwatch Wiltshire's role as the consumer champion for health and social care.

As Emma joins Healthwatch Wiltshire at the end of January, there will be the inevitable flurry of activity with the increased capacity to the staff team. The first area where people will notice this will be the push forward of the recruitment of volunteers. With this in mind, Healthwatch Wiltshire will be inviting members of the public to join us in making a contribution to our volunteering agenda by attending one of three locally based consultation meetings.

Wednesday 29th January, 10am till 12pm
Wessex Room, Corn Exchange, St John's Street, Devizes SN10 1BN

Tuesday 4th February, 1pm till 3pm
Salisbury Methodist Church, St. Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF

Thursday 6th February, Chippenham 10am till 12pm
Neeld Hall, Town Hall, High Street, Chippenham, SN15 3ER

Emma Cooper said: 'I am thrilled to be joining Healthwatch Wiltshire at this important stage in its development locally. A lot of excellent work has been done over the last six months to set up the organisation and raise awareness about its role. 2014 will see Healthwatch Wiltshire make a real difference locally and one of our first priorities is to engage with people who want to get involved with our work as volunteers. I am very much looking forward to meeting people at the consultation meetings'

If you are interested in attending one of the volunteering consultations, please get in touch with Lucie Woodruff, using the contact details below.

ENDS

For more information contact:

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About Healthwatch Wiltshire

Healthwatch Wiltshire is the new, independent consumer champion for health and social care in Wiltshire. The organisation will help to shape and improve local health and social care in our community. Healthwatch Wiltshire is part of the Healthwatch national network, established by the Government to ensure local patients and users have a greater input to shaping local services.

Healthwatch Wiltshire:

- Was established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Is a Social Enterprise (Community Interest Company)
- Has a Chair and four Directors

Healthwatch Wiltshire's purpose is:

- To promote the voice of the consumer in the development of health and social care strategies (children and adults)
- To provide and promote effective signposting and information systems
- To promote, monitor and inspect the quality of services commissioned to meet health and social care needs (enter and view)
- To tell the Wiltshire story

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.