

## Healthwatch Coventry and Healthwatch Warwickshire Collaboration

The Steering Group of Healthwatch Coventry and the Board of Directors of Healthwatch Warwickshire formally agreed their commitment to collaborative working on 22 February 2022.

We agreed to explore ways of extending and deepening our collaborative working relationship for the benefit of patients and the public in Coventry and Warwickshire as the NHS 'system' is reshaped under the Health and Care bill.

Healthwatch Coventry and Healthwatch Warwickshire have a history of working together. We have already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and have agreed the following principles:

- Respect for each other's independence and the requirement for independent decision making procedures for individual Healthwatch
- A collaborative approach to work planning where appropriate
- Maintaining public confidence in our statutory roles, independence and impartiality
- Openness, transparency with effective communication
- Efficient and effective use of resources and avoiding duplication
- Both Healthwatch are committed to a focus on the lived experiences of residents in Coventry and Warwickshire – meaning:
  - We speak and make recommendations based on what we have learnt from local people
  - We maintain a strong understanding of our communities and the issues that impact people's lives including health inequalities
  - Those who are least heard are important to us and there is much to be learnt by their experiences.

Local Healthwatch are set up to listen to, provide information to and create a route for the voices of local people to inform health and care services/plans for their local areas. The boundaries of Healthwatch Coventry and Healthwatch Warwickshire map to the 'Place' Care Collaborative areas within the local new structures.

There are similarities and differences in the two Healthwatch because we have the same functions as outlined in statute but serve different populations.

We recognise that along with other bodies in the health and care system there is more work to do to develop how we will work in this context. This agreement is an important step in this journey. Our current resources concentrate on our Place focused statutory role.