

HWBB Chairs Report November 2023 – Verbal Update

Pharmacy Updates

At the September SHIPP Board, as noted in the papers, Healthwatch raised a question about the stability of local Pharmacy, due to hearing about a number of closures across Shropshire. We have a response which we thought it would be helpful to share and use this as an opportunity to update the Board also.

Peter Prokopa, Chief Officer of Community Pharmacy Shropshire responded: “The [Shropshire PNA 2022](#) identified 47 community pharmacies within the Shropshire HWB area; currently, there are 46 in Shropshire HWB area the closure was a former Lloyds Pharmacies within Sainsburys at Meole Brace Retail Park, Shrewsbury. Of 81 current pharmacies across the whole ICB, there is one 100-hour pharmacy (Wellington Pharmacy, Telford). There have been a number of changes of ownership of pharmacies largely due to the decision of Lloyds Pharmacy to exit the community pharmacy market in the UK, but a few independent businesses have also changed hands in the last few years. Most of the new owners of these pharmacies are engaging in provision of services outside of traditional dispensing much more than under previous ownership.

As a reminder the Shropshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment the PNA was published in 2022 – work will start in 2024 to update this document.

Department for Health and Social Care Visit

The Department of Health visited STW on the 12th October, to discuss integrated neighbourhood teams, person centred care and what work is already underway in Shropshire Telford and Wrekin. It was an opportunity to showcase some of the fantastic work underway in Shropshire including to raise the integration and Highley projects. Feedback from the team was really positive.

Celebration of 10 years of Healthwatch Shropshire

After the last Health and Wellbeing Board in Shropshire, I had the honour of being invited to a small reception for the Healthwatch Board, volunteers and partners to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Healthwatch Shropshire. I was invited to give a small presentation highlighting the work of the Board and volunteers and key projects over the last 10 years. It was a great opportunity to thank all of those involved over the past and present. They continue to put our residents first, this is at the core of all their reports, critical challenge, input into system conversations and partnership working. Look forward to continuing work with Healthwatch over the coming years.

VCSE Event

I also joined a one-day conference on Wednesday 5 October about working with the voluntary and community sector to learn more about the impact they are making as a key delivery partner in the wider health and care system. There was plenty of thought-provoking discussion and practical workshops to leave us all feeling inspired and important opportunities strongly aligned to our HWBB Strategies and plans.

Child Mortality

A report to the September ICB showed an overall increase in numbers of deaths across all perinatal, neonatal and child mortality in 2021/22 & 2022/23, we are monitoring 2023/34 closely. We recognise that every child's death is a tragedy and therefore more detailed work is being undertaken to review local evidence. While there are already lots of activity and programmes in place across STW to address these issues the following additional investigation and actions have been agreed including a deep dive workshop on child mortality with all stakeholders which partners will be invited to attend. Invites are due our shortly, anticipate a further report to the ICB and HWBB in the new year.