

PRESS RELEASE

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Shine a light on support for Long-Term Health Conditions in Rutland

Are you living with a long-term condition or frailty and need ongoing health and care support to live well in the community? The long-term condition could be for instance (but not limited to) dementia, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, Motor Neurone Disease, Learning disabilities, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, diabetes, cancer, arthritis, stroke, spinal injury, cardiovascular disease, mental ill-health.

If so, Healthwatch Rutland wants to hear about your experiences. We are working in partnership with the Better Care Fund to find out what health and social care services work well for you? What other help and support, perhaps from community/voluntary organisations or support groups, help you to stay independent and well? What additional support do you think is needed? Which services could be improved?

Healthwatch Rutland Chair Jennifer Fenelon said:

"People living in the community with long-term conditions often have ongoing and complex needs. Healthwatch Rutland is working with the Better Care Fund partnership to understand what is working well and what could be improved in the provision and delivery of health care and support for this group of people in Rutland."

All information will be confidential and anonymous. Your experiences can be sent to Healthwatch Rutland (by post or email); your information can be taken over the 'phone, or a Healthwatch volunteer can visit you at home. The project will be collecting information from the public until mid-February 2018. If you would like to take part in this study, please contact us as soon as possible:

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Editors Notes:

About Local Healthwatch

Healthwatch Rutland is the independent consumer champion for health and social care, representing the patient and public's voice in Rutland. It helps to shape and improve local health and social care for local people and their communities. Healthwatch Rutland is part of the Healthwatch national network, established by the Government to ensure local patients and users have a greater input to shaping and designing local services. To find out more and to become a member go to www.healthwatchrutland.co.uk

About Healthwatch England

Healthwatch England is the 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 consumer's 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. To find out more please go to www.healthwatch.co.uk

About the Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government. It has been created to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, placing them at the centre of their care and support, and providing them with 'wraparound' fully integrated health and social care, resulting in an improved experience and better quality of life. To find out more please go to <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/part-rel/transformation-fund/bcf-plan/>