

Healthwatch

As we are not provider we're not able to fully respond to all the questions, here's our report;

Brief report for Health and Wellbeing Board –
Healthwatch Leicester and Healthwatch Leicestershire

What issues have you identified in relation to mental health and emotional resilience due to COVID-19?

- Increased anxiety and stress due to lack of treatment and support for long term conditions or new acute need
- Overall increase of stress and anxiety of Covid-19 lockdown – isolation anxiety
- Anxiety and stress due to lack of access to treatment (Breast cancer screening)

What are you currently doing to address these issues and support the local community?

Patient representation at LPT – Supported through our volunteer Advisory board member Mark Farmer, Healthwatch is working with LPT to facilitate more effective patient involvement and engagement. Mark will be chairing the Peoples Council, which is being set up at the moment, which will oversee and review the involvement of patients in service review and ensure more effective co-design.

Online engagement activity – During lockdown we have held a number of online coffee sessions which have covered topics such as CAMHS support service – Kooth. We are also working with LAMP to hold similar sessions to understand the issues faced by MH service users. These will continue whilst we plan to re-engage with the public on a face-to-face basis.

Work priorities – A substantive work priority for Healthwatch this year is around the patient experience of accessing Mental Health services at Crisis. This will seek to show what is the level of understanding for the public on where to go when they require urgent help with their mental health. We are working closely with LPT to ensure our work will have the greatest impact.

What issues do you foresee arising in the future in relation to mental health and emotional resilience?

Some issues would be –

- Potential induced agoraphobia due to ongoing PH messaging
- Increased anxiety and stress due to furlough and possible loss of employment
- Increased anxiety and stress due to conflicting PHE/Local PH messaging

What plans do you have to tackle these issues?

NA – Not a mental Health provider.