

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Patient Participation Groups

Update - 7 October 2024

Welcome to the NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire PPGs update

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School Hearing Check in Worcestershire: Parent and Carer Survey – Have your say - NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire

We want to hear from Worcestershire parents and carers about their thoughts on the school hearing check.

Currently, all children are offered a hearing check when they enter Reception (aged 4 or 5). All children will also have been offered a hearing check at birth, either in hospital or a clinic. If there are concerns about a child's hearing at any age, they can be referred for a full hearing test by a Health Visitor or GP.

A review showed that only a small number of children who are referred from the school hearing check for a full hearing test go on to be diagnosed with a permanent hearing problem. This is because hearing issues are often identified earlier through other routes. We're exploring ways to improve these routes to make sure children get the support they need as early as possible.

In some nearby areas, school hearing checks have been stopped, and children are referred to specialists when a concern arises.

We'd like your feedback on where you'd seek help for hearing concerns and your thoughts on the current school hearing checks. Your input will help shape any future changes to services for children with suspected hearing problems.

Who is this survey for? - This survey is for all parents and carers who live in Worcestershire that have children aged between 0 – 11 years old. If you have different experiences with more than one child, please complete the survey as many times as needed.

Survey: To complete the survey, please use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SchoolHearingCheckParentsCarers>

How we will use your feedback - All responses will be anonymous. NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) will collate and store the answers that you give. We will publish the anonymous findings to our [website](#) and will also share with our partners. Personal identifying information will not appear in any publications resulting from this survey. Your anonymous quotes may be used in this, and other relevant ICB reports.

Deadline and completion - The deadline to complete this survey is 9am, Wednesday 23 October 2024. This survey will take approximately 4 minutes to complete.

More information – For more information about hearing tests for children, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hearing-tests-children/> and <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/childhood-deafness/hearing-loss/>

Concerned about your child's hearing – if you have any concerns about your child's hearing, please contact your Health Visitor or GP surgery.

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Share your NHS patient experiences – NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire

We think it is important that people can share their experiences of the NHS in their own words.

By sharing your experiences of the NHS, you can help health care professionals and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to understand what was good, what was bad and what would have made your experience better.

How to share your NHS experience - There are various ways you can share your experiences. Please see below:

- **Online form** - You can tell us about your NHS experience by following this [link](#) to a short survey. The full survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PExNHS>
- **By telephone or video call** - Contact the engagement team at hw.engage@nhs.net to arrange to speak to someone on the telephone or by video call.

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Help Shape Herefordshire's Suicide Prevention Strategy – Have your say – Multiple partner organisations

A group of Herefordshire partners, including Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations and local authority, seeks to understand your experiences with suicide and suicide prevention to inform their new suicide prevention strategy.

Your feedback is vital in shaping the strategy and action plan to strengthen suicide prevention and bereavement support in local communities where it is most needed.

This survey is for Herefordshire residents.

Survey - The survey can be found here:

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/6e9591a9-1614-48ef-9444-060aa5bb14ac>

Deadline - The deadline to complete the survey is **Friday, 25 October 2024**.

More information – If you have any queries, or need any help to complete this survey, please contact:

suicideprevention@herefordshire.gov.uk

There is also additional information on the survey introduction page:

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/6e9591a9-1614-48ef-9444-060aa5bb14ac>

Support – If you are having thoughts of self-harm or suicide, please seek help via the crisis support below:

National Support:

- NHS 111 - Call: 111, Opt 2

- Samaritans – Call: 116 123
- SHOUT – Text: 'HERE' to 85258
- Papyrus HopeLine – Call: 0800 068 4141

Call 999 or go to A&E now if:

- Yours or someone's life is at risk – for example, they have seriously injured themselves or taken an overdose
- You do not feel you can keep yourself or someone else safe

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Local health campaigns and news

Eligible people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire are being invited to come forward for a flu and COVID-19 vaccine

The vaccination programmes started from Thursday 3 October 2024, with appointments available to book now.

Similar to last year, those eligible for a COVID-19 and flu vaccine include:

- all adults aged 65 years and over
- people who live in a care home for older adults
- people aged 6 months to 64 years with health conditions that make them more vulnerable
- frontline health and social care staff, including in care homes for older adults
- pregnant women.

The flu vaccine is also available to children aged 2 to 3 years, school-aged children (Reception to Year 11) and children with certain long-term health conditions.

Eligible people can book an appointment via the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/) (long link: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/>), on the NHS App or by calling 119.

To make getting jabs easier and closer to home for as many people as possible, dozens of NHS Community Pharmacies and GP practices across Herefordshire and Worcestershire will be offering COVID-19 and flu jabs: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/>

The NHS winter flu and COVID-19 vaccination programme provides vital protection to those eligible and their families as the colder weather approaches, keeping people from becoming seriously ill and reducing their risk of needing hospital treatment.

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire's Chief Medical Officer Dr Will Taylor said: "We want to protect as many people and families as possible. Vaccinations are our best defence against COVID-19 and flu and we are making every effort to be ready for winter.

"It can be easy to become complacent, however it's important for those who are eligible to top up their protection, even if they have had a vaccine or been ill with flu or COVID-19 before, as immunity fades over time and these viruses change each year.

"It is safe and effective to receive the flu and COVID-19 jabs at the same time. There is no need to delay getting one or the other – getting your seasonal vaccines is vital so book yours in as soon as you can and encourage your eligible friends and family to do so too."

To make getting jabs easier and closer to home for as many people as possible, dozens of NHS Community Pharmacies and GP practices across Herefordshire and Worcestershire will be offering COVID-19 and flu jabs: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/>

Published on the ICB website: 2 October 2024

It's never too late to quit smoking... so why not start in Stoptober?

If you stop smoking for 28 days, you are 5 times more likely to quit for good.

Stoptober is back, calling on smokers in Herefordshire and Worcestershire to join the 2.5 million others in England who have made a quit attempt with the campaign previously.

Over 5 million adults in England still smoke. Smoking causes 64,000 deaths a year, making it the biggest cause of preventable illness and death.

Quitting smoking is one of the best things you can do for your health. That's why this year's Stoptober campaign is encouraging smokers to join the thousands of others who are committing to quitting for the month of October – quit smoking for 28 days and you're five times more likely to quit for good.

Stoptober offers a range of free quitting tools including the NHS Quit Smoking app, daily email support, Facebook support group, information about quitting smoking with a vape and expert support from local stop smoking services. Simply search 'Stoptober' for more information or visit the Better Health Quit Smoking Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/>

Dr Will Taylor, Medical Director for NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire says: "Any time is a good time to quit smoking, because it will reduce your risk

of cardiovascular diseases and various cancers, as well as other serious health conditions like Diabetes. It will also improve your general health and fitness, while improving your life expectancy.”

“Stoptober is a great way to increase your chances of quitting for good. There’s loads of useful resources, friendly advice and hints and tips on how to beat cravings. Head to the NHS website here for more information.”

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/quit-smoking/nhs-stop-smoking-services-help-you-quit/>

Published on the ICB website: 2 October 2024

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Local health news and links

- NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS: <https://www.hwics.org.uk/news/latest-news>
- NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB Board Meetings. Dates, meeting papers and information on how to view the meetings can be found here: <https://herefordshireandworcestershire.icb.nhs.uk/meetings>
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust: <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/news>
- Herefordshire General Practice <https://www.herefordshiregeneralpractice.co.uk/news>
- SW Healthcare: <https://www.swhealthcare.org.uk/patients>
- Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust: <https://www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/news-and-media/in-the-news>
- Wye Valley NHS Trust: <https://www.wyevalley.nhs.uk/news-events/trust-newsroom.aspx>

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Engagement team links

- Current Engagement opportunities: <https://www.hwics.org.uk/get-involved>

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Best wishes,

The Engagement Team

The Engagement Team can be contacted by emailing: hw.engage@nhs.net Please email if you wish to unsubscribe from this mailing list. NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB holds your details confidentially and will not share them with a third party. It is important for the ICB to ensure the details we hold are accurate, it is your responsibility to ensure that the details provided are accurate and that you keep us informed of any changes in the future. If there are any contact detail changes please notify us by using the email address above. For more information about our volunteer policies, please visit:

<https://herefordshireandworcestershire.icb.nhs.uk/documents/policies/communication-involvement-and-engagement-policies>

www.hwics.org.uk