

Information for participants

How good are the health services in your local area? Do you get the help you need?

- The main aim of this audit is to find about the health needs of people with experience of homelessness in your local area. This data can then be used to help improve services and ensure that any barriers to access are removed.
- The audit will ask you some questions about any health needs you have, what health services you use and how your experiences can be improved in the future. This should take approximately 30-40 minutes.
- The audit is not a health assessment and it will not be used to tell you what health treatment you might need. However, if you would like some information about where you can get this advice you can contact [Healthwatch Shropshire](#) for signposting.

Why should I take part?

- Health is important to everybody, but people who are homeless can have poorer health as a result of barriers to accessing services, as well as specific support needs relating to their homelessness.
- Without a reliable source of information about what health needs homeless people have, it is difficult to know if existing services are offering effective support, or whether new ways of working or new services are required.
- By taking part, you will be helping us to get the evidence we need to help improve health services for homeless people in your local area.
- Participants across the country have already taken part in an audit for their area. As a result, the services they work with have been able to make a range of improvements, including:
 - Better links between hospitals and homelessness services.
 - Greater access to universal services like GPs and dentists.
 - Improved screening for vaccinations against things like TB.

Will the info I provide be anonymous?

- Yes. Any information you share with us will be anonymised:
 - We will not record your name or other personal details during the audit.
 - Local services will have access to the data, but they will not be able to identify the individuals involved.
- You should always be asked for your consent to check you are happy to go ahead with the audit.
- Any information you provide will not affect any of the services you are already receiving. Please answer the questions as fully as you can. If you'd rather pass on a question, just let the interviewer know.
- The data will be stored electronically and Homeless Link will use the information for our national database. Individuals who complete the audit will not be identifiable from this data.