

News Release

Sign up to the Citizens' Panel and help improve local health services

31 March 2020

People in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) are invited to sign up to a new online network to help shape the future of local NHS services.

The Citizens' Panel is being set up by local NHS organisations to gather public views and opinions on a wide variety of health topics, which will be used to help plan services.

Richard Morris, Director of Operations and Corporate Affairs for the three Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in LLR, said: "This is your opportunity to help us improve the healthcare services that thousands of people in the area use every single day. We want to know what we do well, what could be improved, and what you think of our future plans. Your feedback will be used to make meaningful improvements that will affect people's lives for the better and in this uncertain time is a great way to get involved.

"We want to hear from people across LLR and it's really easy to get involved as the Citizens' Panel will mostly take place online. You could simply spend a few minutes each month taking part in surveys, polls and questionnaires. You can do these on your mobile at a time that suits you, in the comfort of your home or out and about. If you want to get more involved, you'll also have the opportunity to take part in face-to-face focus groups on a health topic that interests you. If you don't have an opinion on a topic or you're too busy to help, you don't have to. It's designed to fit around you."

The initial aim is for at least 1,000 people to sign up to the Citizens' Panel, which will be made up of people living across LLR of varying age, gender, ethnicity and socio-economic status. The panel will help to ensure that the NHS can regularly seek the views of a representative sample of local residents on health and social care issues.

Evan Rees, Chair of the Better Care Together Patient and Public Involvement Assurance Group, said: "It's vital that the voice of local people is at the heart of the work and is heard and influences any developments. The Citizens' Panel will complement other patient engagement, such as events, social media, the CCGs' Patient and Public Engagement Groups and the Patient Participation Groups that are linked to GP practices.

"What makes the Citizens' Panel different is the number of conversations that will take place online; in this way we hope to reach out to people who perhaps wouldn't normally join a patient group, because they are busy or do not want to attend meetings. The set-up will be flexible. It could also provide valuable volunteering experience for students or anyone looking to work in health and social care, to help boost your CV or include in job or college applications."

Anyone can sign up and members will receive a regular newsletter with information about health and social care and be asked for their views on health topics. To find out more about the Citizens' Panel and to sign up go to www.healthcareviewsllr.co.uk

ENDS



[#LLRCitizensPanel](https://twitter.com/LLRCitizensPanel)

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Notes to editors:

Better Care Together partnership includes the six NHS organisations working alongside the three principal local authorities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and a range of other independent, voluntary and community sector providers. Formed in 2014, they combined to look after a population of more than one million people. These organisations are working together to improve services making them sustainable for future generations. For more information visit: <http://www.bettercareleicester.nhs.uk/>

The three clinical commissioning groups in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR); East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group (ELRCCG), Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group (LCCCG) and West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (WLCCG) were created under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Working alongside local councils and a range of other independent and voluntary and community sector providers, LLR's CCGs look after a population of more than one million people. We are responsible for planning and buying most health services needed by the people who live and work in LLR. This includes healthcare at GP practices, hospital care, urgent and emergency care, community health care, mental health and learning disability services and rehabilitation.

The LLR CCGs also work closely with partners to raise awareness around prevention and to encourage patients and the public to effectively self-care for minor injuries and ailments. Our aim is to develop a health and care system that keeps people well and out of hospital, moves care closer to home, provides care in a crisis and delivers the best specialist care possible. LLR CCGs' strategic intent including the need to move to a mature Integrated Care System by April 2021 is captured in the Five Year Plan for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.