

Child mental health: is it in crisis in Shropshire?

BBC Panorama reported that “Britain is in the grip of a child mental health crisis and getting help is a postcode lottery”.

Healthwatch Shropshire would like to know about the experiences of Shropshire children, parents, carers and the professionals who support them. Are our children getting the help they need when they need it? If you have used the services, what do you think? Are there gaps in provision? These are the questions Healthwatch Shropshire is asking as part of its Hot Topic looking at the recently launched 0 - 25 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service in Shropshire.

This service includes two online services, Kooth and Helios, where people can access self-help, peer support, counselling and treatment. Support is offered through the BEAM drop in centres along with face to face services from a multi-disciplinary Young People and Families Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

Rachael Allen, Healthwatch Shropshire Chief Officer, explained: “We hear a lot in the national press about the mental health problems facing children in today’s society and the services children can access. We really want to hear about the experiences people have of local services. We gather these experiences and feed them back anonymously to those organisations who provide and pay for the services. In this way user experience can help shape the development of services so that they truly meet the needs of the young people in Shropshire.”

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