

Paper 3

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31 January 2020

By email

Right Honorable Alicia Kearns
Office of Right Honorable Alicia Kearns
House of Commons
London
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Dear Ms Kearns

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent election to Parliament and to introduce myself to you as the Chair of Healthwatch Rutland. Healthwatch is the independent statutory champion for people who use health and social care services. We're here to find out what matters to people and to help make sure their views shape the care they need.

The Healthwatch Network is made up of Healthwatch England and 152 local Healthwatch - with one in every area of England. Healthwatch Rutland has responsibility for those people living in the county of Rutland in your Melton and Rutland constituency. Local Healthwatch have two key statutory duties:

1. **To find out what local people in Rutland like about services and what could be improved** - and share these views and this insight with those who have the power and influence to make change happen e.g. health and social care service commissioners, service providers and particularly, politicians like you.
2. **To help local people find the advice and information they need about services in their local area** e.g. how to complain about a service, how to register with a GP, help facing difficult health decisions or just finding out about what support options are available.

The relationship between an MP and their local Healthwatch is a vital one for all MPs. You'll be able to demonstrate how you are taking action on behalf of your constituents by sharing their experiences of health and social care with us and signposting their queries to us. We can also help you to help your constituents by providing supporting evidence/context to support you in Parliament when advocating for improved local services.

You may also be interested in the top three health and social care priorities for people living Rutland. Every year, we select these priorities based on what we hear from local people and the local issues that matter most to your constituents. For 2020/21, our local priorities for Rutland are:

- The difficulty in getting GP appointments.

- The upcoming reconfiguration of the University Hospitals of Leicester and transport problems for Rutland people in accessing these services now and post reconfiguration.
- The second phase of the community services redesign in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and the future of Rutland Memorial Hospital in Oakham.

If you would like to be kept updated on local healthcare matters, you can sign up to our newsletter by emailing info@healthwatchrutland.co.uk

I do appreciate that this must be a very busy period for you but I would be very keen to set up an introductory meeting in the next few weeks (at your earliest convenience) to discuss the role of Healthwatch, our three local priorities and how we can build a mutually beneficial and productive relationship over the duration of your term as MP for Melton and Rutland.

I look forward to hearing from and meeting with you soon.

Kind regards,

J Underwood

Dr Janet Underwood PhD
Chair, Healthwatch Rutland