



**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**  
**2 JUNE 2021**

**REPORT OF HEALTHWATCH LEICESTERSHIRE**

**EX HM ARMED FORCES: SPOTLIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**Purpose of report**

1. This report gives a summary of the findings gathered by Healthwatch Leicester and Healthwatch Leicestershire in relation to the experiences of people who have served in Her Majesty's (HM) Armed Forces and their experience of Mental Health Services in Leicester and Leicestershire.

**Background**

2. The County Council, following the Health and Social Care Act 2012, is required to directly commission a local Healthwatch. The local Healthwatch in turn has a set of statutory activities to undertake, such as gathering local views and making these known to providers and commissioners, monitoring and scrutinising the quality of provision of local services and a seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. The purpose of Healthwatch Leicestershire (HWL) is to promote improvements in local health and social care services – improving outcomes for local people in Leicestershire. HWL believes that the best way to do this is by designing local services around the needs and experiences of local people.
4. Through patient and public engagement Healthwatch became aware of the different patient experience in relation to medicine prescription, when issued from an acute hospital or when issued from their GP practice, when part of an overall treatment experience.

**Contents of the report**

5. The report shares the findings regarding where ex HM Armed Forces personnel go for support, if the support helped them or not, and what they think can be changed to improve services.

**Officer to Contact**

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**List of Appendices**

EX HM Armed Forces: Spotlight on Mental Health Services report

**Relevant Impact Assessments****Equality and Human Rights Implications**

6. HWL is aware that the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) applies to all functions of public authorities that are listed in Schedule 19 Equality Act 2010. Schedule 19 list does not include Healthwatch England or Local Healthwatch organisations, however as bodies carrying out a public function using public funding we are subject to the PSED general duty.
7. ECS/ Healthwatch Leicestershire is committed to reducing the inequalities of health and social care outcomes experienced in some communities. We believe also that health and social care should be based on a human rights platform. We will utilise the Equality Act 2010 when carrying out our work and in influencing change in service commissioning and delivery.