

## **HEALTHWATCH LEICESTERSHIRE**

### **Leicestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Healthwatch Leicestershire will be represented at this meeting by Geoffrey Smith OBE. The Interim Chair of Healthwatch Leicestershire, Mrs Vijay Sharma, also hopes to be present.

Healthwatch, and its predecessor Leicestershire LINK, have been concerned at the past, recent and continuing reports of public concern about the care given to the very vulnerable people who are patients at the Bradgate Unit and other LPT services. We are also aware of the calls for a Public Enquiry into the Mental Health Services of the Trust.

In addition to listening to moving and disturbing accounts of patients, families and carers and encouraging them to raise issues and complaints directly with LPT Healthwatch is collating other comments and concerns. We have also noted the reports of the Coroner and in the media and is drawing on the views of local voluntary sector and patient-led groups.

Healthwatch was part of the discussions in the NHS England Quality Surveillance Group and the Risk Summit and is thus well-informed on the successive failures of care and the failure of previous action plans to secure improvement. LPT has now set out a new action plan, using external assistance.

Healthwatch Leicestershire suggests that the Committee should probe the likelihood that the new plan, unlike the earlier action plans, will deliver the improvements in care and security that the vulnerable people who receive care from LPT deserve, and restore public confidence in the service.

Healthwatch will be raising its concerns and seeking further assurance in a meeting with the LPT Chair