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6th May 2016

Invitation

Launch of the '555' report into the diagnosis of neurological conditions

Wednesday 8th June 2016

Chelmsford City Racecourse, Chelmsford, CM3 1QP

7pm (buffet 6.30pm)

It is with great pleasure that I write to invite you to the launch of the latest report in our award-winning '555' series of projects looking at health and care services in Essex. Our unique approach enables patients to share their experiences face-to-face with professionals who deliver care in Essex.

Healthwatch Essex has been working in partnership with MS-UK and the Essex Neurology Network to capture the lived experience of people who have been diagnosed with a neurological condition. It has become clear from the work we have conducted that the point of diagnosis for those living with a neurological condition is a pivotal moment in their lives.

The professionals who deliver diagnosis play a vital role in the patient's journey, and the information and support offered at that point can make a real difference to them in facing the challenges the condition will bring.

Our report brings together the lived experience of patients, diagnosed within the last three years, who participated in focus groups across Essex. During the event, professionals will have the opportunity to listen first-hand to the stories of some of these participants. You will gain an insight into what the diagnosis process is like from their perspective and hear about what worked well, and what was less effective. In other words, gain a better understanding of their lived experience.

I very much hope you are able to attend this exciting and valuable event. By listening to the stories of today's service users, we can help improve the diagnosis experience for future generations.

This is an exclusive event for the neurology community in Essex and spaces are limited. To reserve your place, please contact Moira Groborz, email: moira.groborz@healthwatchessex.org.uk or tel: 01376 572829, **by Friday 27th May.**

Yours sincerely



Dr Tom Nutt
Chief Executive Officer
Healthwatch Essex

