

LATEST SURVEYS

Welcome to the November edition of the Young Angus Citizens' Panel newsletter. This issue has details of your feedback on the most recent surveys, plus the chance to help us by giving the Angus Public Partnership (health) Group (APPG) your views on NHS Tayside.

We have enclosed a short feedback form and also provide contact details below, should you wish to get more involved.

SEXUAL HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS

NHS Tayside was delighted with the response from the citizens' panels on the issue of Sexual Health and Relationships. The NHS received 220 surveys from Angus, responses which showed that you felt that poor sexual health is a real problem.

The main thing we noticed was that people feel there should be a range of different options to suit different situations and to give people the choice to get the support they are comfortable with. The options mentioned, included; schools, parents, nurses, youth workers, television, radio, posters, telephone help-lines, the internet and text messaging.

Feedback showed that people feel that schools have an important role to play in teaching young people about sex and relationships. It was also pointed out that how this was done was very important.

The panels also thought that parents had a very important job to do, and that they need better information, guidance and support to do it. The issue of both young people and parents taking responsibility for sexual health and relationships also received strong support in the feedback that you gave.

Where services are was also an issue. Some young people wanted to travel to services so that they could get advice without others knowing, but, on the other hand, there was support for local services that are easy to get to.

There was also support for the supply of condoms and the morning after pill, though some people were against the morning after pill being made easily available.

There was strong support for increased screening and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. There were many suggestions on where this could be done, with lots of places suggested and a stress on access and the promotion of the service.

The very detailed information that NHS Tayside received has proved very useful in thinking about the future of services and in developing a Sexual Health and Relationships Strategy for Tayside.

HOUSING IN LATER LIFE

We also received some very useful results from the panels on the Older Peoples Housing survey. The survey came up with some clear messages and loads of other information that will help to plan housing for older people.

The basic point was, that as people get older, owning their own home matters less, but staying in their home after retirement matters more.

Only 9% of under 30s thought staying in their own home after retirement was very important, against 82% of the 80 and over age group.

On the other hand, 40% of under 30s thought that owning rather than renting a house in a special housing scheme, was very important, compared with 22% of the 80 and over age group.

**WE HAVE READ ALL YOUR COMMENTS AND PASSED THEM TO THE RELEVANT PEOPLE.
WHEN YOU HAVE GIVEN CONTACT DETAILS THEY WILL BE GETTING BACK TO YOU WITH
SPECIFIC FEEDBACK!**

People said that the most important housing issues in retirement were; energy efficiency, a quiet location, being close to shops, ground floor access, being close to public transport and friends and family, and having a parking space and spare room. The main issues for sheltered housing were; being confused or frail, having a warden on call, not being able to adapt their home and being lonely at home.

The important things in special housing, were very similar, with ground floor access being most important, followed by a warden, being near family and friends, having a parking space and having at least one spare room.

Even though being helped to stay in their home was not the highest priority for people, 77% still said it was very or quite important. The things people said were most important for helping them to stay in their home were; general help, help with home maintenance and adaptations, emergency on call support and help with cleaning, laundry and shopping.

In developing the Older Persons Housing Strategy, the results of the survey will be very important, however, at the moment the strategy is at an early stage and we need to consider not only housing issues, like adaptations, but also, other things such as care, access and the communities that people live in. We also need to think about how far the money we have can go if we spend it one priority rather than another.

The very detailed results that you gave us on the survey, in particular the comments that you gave, which have all been read, have already helped us with our thinking on homes for older people. We will be using these results to plan future work and to deliver the housing that older people need, now and in the future.

SPEAK UP ON THE NHS

Angus Public Partnership (health) Group (APPG) also want to hear your views on NHS Tayside. All you need to do is to fill in the leaflet we have sent you and post it back to them.

APPG is an independent group set up by NHS Tayside to get people involved in local NHS decisions. Group members are volunteers from lots of different backgrounds and APPG is entirely independent of the NHS.

APPG volunteers are people who are interested in health matters and who try to involve other people in decision-making about health services across the NHS Tayside area and in Angus in particular.

This means involving locals and consulting them about the health service. APPG members are always on the look out for the views of service users and their families about any issues and concerns that they have about NHS Tayside.

Local concerns are considered by the APPG before being passed on to NHS Tayside. The APPG is also used by NHS Tayside as a means of getting feedback from the public on proposed courses of action and for monitoring public opinion on health matters.

The APPG are keen to recruit new members. If you are interested in joining APPG you can contact Allyson Angus, Public Involvement Manager on Freephone 0800 783 6110 or e-mail; Public-involvement@thb.scot.nhs.uk.

FUTURE SURVEYS

The last few months have been quite quiet for the panel. Surveys are however, continually being added to the Have Your Say section of the Angus Council web-site www.angus.gov.uk/hys.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for all your help over the last few years. Your answers have helped Angus Council and its partners to improve the services that are provided.

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