



## Snapshot: People living with HIV and sexual health conditions

We attended an event hosted on Saturday 13 May 2017 by the Happy, Wild & Free Group - which happened to be about changes to local services - in order to raise awareness about Healthwatch Surrey's role amongst people with HIV and sexual health conditions. We also had conversations about peoples views on health and social care.

**81**

We raised awareness of Healthwatch Surrey's role amongst 81 people



People were concerned about changes to the location of services



People liked the quality of the care they were accessing at Blanche Heriot

People shared 48 views and experiences with us. A number of themes emerged:

### Service changes creating barriers to access

"If I don't have Blanche Heriot I'm going to stop accessing services. My legs are like jelly from the breakdown of muscle caused by the HIV medicine I've taken. I need to be somewhere local that I can travel without it causing me days of not being to walk afterwards"

"If Blanche Heriot closes I'm going to give up"

### What it can feel like to live with HIV

"I feel like people with HIV are blamed and are to blame for their condition. I certainly feel responsible. So sexual health services will always come second to general health services"

"I broke down at work and called Blanche Heriot; they told me to come in and have a chat

### Importance of continuity of care

"My relationship with Dr Pritchard means I can come and get a good service. I think having a different doctor would impact me using the service"

"Dr Pritchard... cares so much and she is so experienced. This unit is a life line"

"I won't go anywhere else- it took me long enough to get the help in the first place out of embarrassment and stigma"

### Feelings and perceptions created by GPs

"My GP doesn't want to know me"

"My GP doesn't want to touch me; he just says 'go to Blanche Heriot and Dr Pritchard will sort you out'"