

# Press Release

## **Launch of new health service to help youngsters in the County**

A new mobile school health service is being launched to provide help and support to youngsters in Worcestershire and make it easier for them to get advice.

ChatHealth will be launched later this month by the County's main provider of mental health and community NHS services, Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, to give young people advice and support about a range of health issues and improve their access to health care.

The award-winning service, which is available to those aged 11-19, allows students to speak to a nurse via text message or phone call. From 18<sup>th</sup> January those using the service will be able to get advice and support on mental and physical health issues including sexual health by contacting 07937 947946.

**Alison Deacey, Team leader for School Health with Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust said:** "We are really pleased to be able to offer ChatHealth to students in the County. It will make accessing health services easier and less daunting for them.

"We have worked closely with young people to develop the promotional material we are using to advertise the service in our schools and we are looking into the possibility of a secure app to improve the service further."

ChatHealth is available Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm, automatic replies will be sent to messages received out of hours. For medical help and advice outside of these hours please contact your GP or call 111.

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