

Relocating to Shropshire



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About the Trust

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust is the main provider of district general hospital services for nearly half a million people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and mid Wales.

Our main service locations are The Princess Royal Hospital, Telford (PRH) and The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH), which are located 20 minutes' drive apart. Together they provide 99% of our activity.

Both hospitals provide a wide range of acute hospital services including accident and emergency, outpatients, diagnostics, inpatient medical care, and critical care.

Alongside our services at PRH and RSH, we also provide community and outreach services such as:

- Consultant-led outreach clinics
- Midwife-led units
- Renal dialysis outreach services
- Community services including Midwifery, Audiology and Therapies

Most of our patients and communities live in three local authority areas – Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council and Powys County Council.

We employ almost 7,000 people across our two hospitals and other sites, along with a further 1,000 students and staff from other organisations who also work in our hospitals. Most of our staff also live within the three local catchment areas.

The Trust has achieved teaching hospital status through our partnership with the Keele University School of Medicine. We also benefit from strong partnerships with nearby universities in the training of nurses and allied health professionals.



About the area

Shropshire is the largest inland county in England. It is a rural county and is home to almost 325,000 people. The majority live in the county town of Shrewsbury, and within Telford & Wrekin.

Landscape

Our county boasts one of the most varied landscapes of any of the English counties. From the rugged Stiperstones ridge to the rolling upland hills and valleys around Clun, and not forgetting the fossil packed limestone rock of Wenlock Edge. The [Shropshire Hills National Landscape](#) provides a scenic backdrop for a peaceful countryside stroll, or why not take part in one of the many activities on offer.

Nestled on the Welsh border, we are also under 2 hours' drive from both [Eryri National Park](#) and the [Peak District National Park](#), with the [Lake District](#) and [Brecon Beacons](#) also accessible with a slightly longer drive.

Towns

The county's population and economy are centred around the five main towns:

- Shrewsbury, the county town, which is culturally and historically important and is located close to the centre of the county
- Telford, a new town which is vibrant with many restaurants, cinema, and a large shopping centre
- Oswestry, a town situated on the Welsh border
- Bridgnorth, a town split in two by the River Severn
- Ludlow, a town famous for its gourmet food and ruined medieval castle

The county also has smaller market towns, including Whitchurch, Newport, and Market Drayton.

History

Shropshire was established as a county in the 10th century, during the division of Saxon Mercia following the defeat of the Danes by Edward the Elder.

The old English name for Shropshire is 'Scrobbesbyrigscīr', but the Normans found this too difficult to pronounce so changed it to 'Salopesberia'. The more modern 'Salop' was derived from this, until the county was officially changed to 'Shropshire' in 1980.

Fun facts about Shropshire

The world's first skyscraper is on the outskirts of Shrewsbury! The Flax Mill was built in 1797 and was the first multi-storey iron-framed building in the world.

Home of the modern-day Olympic Games! The first ever modern-day Olympic Games were held in Much Wenlock in 1850.

The Shropshire Hills are designated as a National Landscape (previously Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

We are right between two world heritage sites – the Ironbridge Gorge and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury!

The tallest Doric column in England stands on the outskirts of Shrewsbury town centre.

In Bridgnorth, the castle keep is leaning at a seventeen-degree angle – three times more than the Leaning Tower of Pisa!

Many films and TV shows have been filmed here including A Christmas Carol (1984), Atonement, The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, and Time.

The Sweet Pea flower originated in Wem.

Shropshire is home to 32 castles and 25 hillforts!

Muller Dairy is based in the north of the county, in Market Drayton.

The world's oldest known complete fossil was discovered in Shropshire at Caradoc.



Culture and Leisure

Outdoor pursuit

One of the main attractions of this area is the fantastic outdoor life, both within Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, and in the neighbouring counties and nearby National Parks.

There is no shortage of exciting outdoor activities to take part in in Shropshire! From walking, cycling and horse-riding to indoor and outdoor rock climbing, wild swimming, and canoeing. For the more adventurous of you there are also opportunities for paragliding, parachuting, and skydiving. And of course, nothing beats pitching your tent and simply enjoying the beautiful views and being surrounded by nature!

Shopping

Telford has the biggest shopping centre in the county. Located in the heart of Telford, the centre has over 160 high street stores. It is also located next to the new Southwater development, which houses an IMAX cinema, Tenpin Bowling, Telford Library and a selection of restaurants and bars. There is plenty of parking available.

Shrewsbury has a smaller shopping centre but boasts an impressive selection of independent and boutique shops. Take a stroll through the cobbled streets and stop for a hot drink or cake in one of the many cafes.

Many of the smaller market towns of Shropshire are also not to be overlooked. Ludlow has a market in the square each week, situated underneath the castle ruins. Bishops Castle also has a variety of art, antiques, and crafts shops, as well as the renowned Three Tuns brewery (the oldest working brewery in Britain) which dates back to 1642!

Food and drink

Shropshire has an agricultural heritage, which can be seen in the varied plates of food you can find throughout the county. From the tasty pub snacks to a Sunday roast, from street food to fine dining – you are guaranteed to find something to your taste!

The area has a rich food scene with both Ludlow and Shrewsbury hosting excellent annual food festivals. [Ludlow Food Festival](#) takes place in September and is set within the impressive castle ruins! Shropshire already has a reputation as a great foodie destination, being the proud home to 9 Michelin Guide restaurants (2023), with 4 of these being in Ludlow.

Shropshire has a long tradition of brewing, and there are currently 19 microbreweries in the county. The [Shropshire Real Ale Trail](#) is a great way to sample these local

ales. Many of them are only available in the pubs closest to the breweries! There is also a selection of vineyards, distilleries, cocktail bars, and licensed cafes.

And for the coffee drinkers, Shropshire has a selection of independent coffee roasters, which can be sampled at one of the many local cafes.

Competitive sports

Most sports are well catered for locally, including football, rugby, golf, ice skating, ice hockey, rock climbing, squash, tennis, shooting and fishing. The sports partnership [Energize](#) promotes access to a wide range of organised activities.

There are many local teams to watch and support. Local football team [Shrewsbury Town F.C.](#) play at the Croud Meadow, and there is also the [Telford Tigers ice hockey team](#).

Historic sites

Due to Shropshire's rich history, there are several interesting historic sites in the county. Discover the remains of [Wroxeter Roman city](#), once the fourth largest city in Roman Britain, or take in one of the many battle sites, castles or atmospheric ruins. Stroll through the black and white Tudor buildings of Shrewsbury and Ludlow or wander the [Ironbridge Gorge](#), a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Shropshire also has many stately homes and gardens, some of which can be visited as they are now looked after by the National Trust.

Culture and arts

[Theatre Severn](#) in Shrewsbury shows a wide variety of films, comedy shows, plays, musicals, live music and talks in one of its two auditoriums. As well as big-name cinemas, you'll also find independent cinemas and other performance spaces in the county, showing blockbuster and international films and screenings.

There are many museums where you can find Roman treasure, soldiers and even a woolly mammoth! In small galleries around the county, you can find paintings, sculptures and crafts made by local artists.

In addition to the county's food festivals, there are music festivals each year. The well-known [Shrewsbury Folk Festival](#) takes place on August Bank Holiday weekend, and there is also the Green Man festival in neighbouring Powys.

Family fun

Shropshire is a great day out for all the family! There are many open spaces such as country parks, forests, hills, and castles which all provide safe areas for your children to explore and play. If you're looking for an educational day out, [Blists Hill Victorian Town](#) allows visitors to experience life in Victorian England, or [Enginuity](#) is a fun

science-filled experience which encourages young visitors to explore independently.

Places of worship

Shropshire is a diverse county, with a range of places of worship to suit your own personal beliefs.

During working hours personal practice can be conducted within the dedicated multi-faith spaces at both The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital and all religions and world views are welcomed. These private spaces are available to any person for private prayer or a time of quiet.

Our Chaplaincy Team can give details of places of worship in the area if you would like to contact them directly:

The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital: 01743 261000 Ext. 3638

The Princess Royal Hospital, Telford: 01952 641222 Ext. 4519

sath.chaplaincyteam@nhs.net

Transport

Roads

Shrewsbury and Telford are both easily accessible from the national motorway network, with Telford being situated off the M54 and Shrewsbury just slightly further down the A5. Birmingham is just under an hour's drive, with the northern cities of Liverpool and Manchester also within easy reach by good road links. To the west, there are also good road links to Eryri National Park, the Brecon Beacons, and the Welsh coast.

Public transport

[Bus services in Shropshire](#) are provided by a few different operators. There are regular buses throughout the week into both Shrewsbury and Telford town centres. Buses also run through the more rural areas; however, these are less frequent. Park and Ride services are available in Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth and Ludlow, for those wishing to access the towns within worrying about finding town centre parking.

[Shropshire has 19 National Rail stations](#) on various lines, including at Shrewsbury, Telford, Church Stretton, Ludlow, Cosford and Whitchurch. These give us excellent railway links to London, Birmingham, Manchester, and Cardiff. There are also several Heritage Railways in Shropshire including Severn Valley Railway and Bridgnorth Cliff Railway - England's oldest and steepest inland funicular railway!

Airports

Shropshire has 3 international airports within close proximity. Birmingham International Airport is the nearest (approximately 1 hour drive), with Manchester Airport and Liverpool John Lennon Airport both approximately 1.5 hours away.

Sustainable travel

There are numerous cycle and walking routes around the picturesque county, ranging from urban paths to rocky hills. The local council has further plans to improve the number of footpaths and cycle lanes around Shrewsbury as part of their climate action plan. Shropshire Council are also putting in new electric vehicle charging points, bringing the total number to 320 across 45 locations.



Education in Shropshire

If you are a family living in, or moving to Shropshire, you will be pleased to know there are many excellent schools and colleges within the county.

Shropshire has a strong commitment to providing opportunities for every child and young person to achieve their potential. Shropshire schools continually rank above average in the league tables.

Please follow the links below to find full list of schools in the area:

[Shropshire schools, colleges, and specialist provisions](#)

[Telford & Wrekin schools, colleges, and specialist provisions](#)

[Independent schools in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin](#)

For younger children, there are various childcare options available both on-site and off-site for staff at RSH and PRH. Daisy Chain Day care is located on site at RSH and gives priority to NHS staff. Apley Village Day Nursery is situated at PRH and offers flexible solutions to your childcare requirements. There are discounts available for NHS employees. Off-site there are many excellent nurseries, daycares, and playgroups available. Please follow the links below for more information:

[Shropshire nurseries](#)

[Telford & Wrekin nurseries](#)

Universities and higher education

[Shrewsbury Colleges Group](#) offer 44 higher level courses across many sectors including computing, engineering, and business. [Telford College](#) also offer a selection of university level courses so that you can study without having to leave home or move away.

There are a number of universities within easy commuting distance from Shropshire. These include, but are not limited to, University of Chester, University of Wolverhampton, Keele University, Staffordshire University, Harper Adams University and the universities of Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool.

Housing

The local area offers a wide range of housing to suit every need, from town centre flats to remote farmhouses and converted barns. Our two hospitals are located in the largest population centres – Shrewsbury and Telford - so there is an abundance of accommodation within close proximity.

Shrewsbury and the surrounding countryside has an array of properties from 2 bed Victorian town houses to much larger detached properties. There are plenty of period properties and older houses with character to choose from, or if you'd prefer a new build there are some lovely new developments on the outskirts of Shrewsbury.

Telford is a much newer area which was formed in the 1960s by merging several smaller towns. Depending on the area, you'll find everything from new build apartments and houses, mews and detached houses, and a mixture of period and modern properties.

The smaller towns also have much to offer. Newport has a student feel due to its proximity to the University there. Church Stretton and Ludlow have some charming streets and houses and are located along the A49 for commuting into Shrewsbury. Whitchurch and Market Drayton in the north of the county are also within easy commuting of Telford and Shrewsbury.

The county also has a series of affordable housing offers meaning even for first-time buyers there is an option to get onto the property ladder. The schemes offer well designed, high quality and environmentally sustainable housing at affordable prices.

It is advisable to view all accommodation before making a decision and entering into any contract or agreement.

There is more than one way in which to find a rental property. This can be done via an estate/letting agent, online using Zoopla or Rightmove etc. or privately.

Rightmove has a [list of estate agents in Shropshire](#) which may be useful to aid you in your search.

Hospital accommodation

Limited accommodation is available on site at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, this is subject to availability. [Rooftops Housing Group](#) manage the accommodation which consists of 4-bedroom townhouses, which are also let by the room. They are furnished and cost is inclusive of bills.

Cost of living in Shropshire

Shropshire is a great place to live, and on average is about 22% less expensive than London!

Please note the below costs are a guide only, they are subject to change and are accurate as of June 2025.

Housing

Properties in Shropshire had an overall average price of £285,649 over the last year. (rightmove.co.uk)

- Detached: £400,369
- Semi-detached: £246,258
- Terraced: £212,493

The average property rent in Shropshire is £1,146 per calendar month. (home.co.uk)

- Room: £536 per calendar month
- Flat: £861 per calendar month
- House: £1,304 per calendar month

Utilities

- [Council tax rates in Shropshire](#)
- [Council tax rates in Telford & Wrekin](#)

Sports and leisure

- Gym: between £20 and £50+ per month
- Cinema: £10 - £14 (there are sometimes offers available)

Eating out

- Fast food meal: £6 - £10
- Dinner in a restaurant: £20 - £30
- Coffee: £3 - £5
- Pint of beer in a pub: £5 - £8
- Cocktail: £8 - £15
- Takeaway pizza: £10 - £20
- Fish and chips: £8 - £14

Groceries (supermarket brand, approximate prices)

- Loaf of bread: 75p
- Milk, 2 pints: £1.20
- Eggs, 6 large: £1.95
- Flour, 1.5kg: 80p
- Apples, 1kg: £2.75+
- Tomatoes 1kg: £2.38
- Onions, 1kg: £1.00
- Potatoes, 2kg: £1.35
- Rice, 1kg: £1.25
- Chicken breast fillets, 320g: £2.40
- Bottle of wine, mid-range: £8.00
- 4-pack lager, branded: £4 - £5.50
- Milk chocolate, branded, 180g: £2.75

Moving to Shropshire from outside the UK

Integration into life in the UK is essential for you to live happily and safely. These next few pages will provide you with some key information about life in the UK, including renting a property, driving in the UK, emergency services and what to bring with you.

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Climate and what to bring

The weather in the UK is often unpredictable and can vary a lot, but it is rarely extreme. As a rough guide, the average temperature in Summer is around 21°C and in Winter 4°C. We also experience a lot of rainfall year-round, so it is recommended to bring a good waterproof jacket, or maybe purchase one when you are.

We suggest that you bring suitable clothes for the UK climate, as well as suitable footwear. You will need lots of layers, including warm jumpers and outerwear.

Driving in the UK

If you have a driving license from your country of origin, you are permitted to drive for up to 12 months using this licence. Once the 12-month period finishes you will need a UK license to continue driving in the UK. It is strongly advised that you begin the process of acquiring a UK driving license as soon as possible to avoid being unable to drive at the end of the 12-month period.

If you do not hold a license from your country of origin, you will need to apply for a provisional license before you can take any lessons. To apply for your provisional license, you must have lived in England, Wales, or Scotland for at least 185 days (6 months) in the last 12 months.

The cost of the provisional license is £34. You will need to arrange driving lessons, review for an take your driving theory test and then book in your practical driving test. Once you have passed all these you will be issued with your full UK Driver's license.

Some useful links:

[Driving in the UK on a non-GB license](#)

[Exchanging a foreign driving license](#)

The [Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency \(DVLA\)](#) is a government organisation responsible for maintain the registration and licensing of drivers and vehicles in the UK, along with the collection and enforcement of vehicle tax (also known as car tax or road tax).

If you own and drive a car, [you must ensure the car is taxed](#) to drive on the road.

Renting a property

Once you have chosen the area you would like to live in, the next step is securing a property suitable for yourself and your family, if they are joining you. To search for a property to rent you could use the local estate agents, online estate agents or private landlords.

If you intend to rent directly from the landlord (i.e. privately) you will need to ensure that they belong to an accreditation scheme. Your local authority (Shropshire Council/Telford & Wrekin Council) can advise you about accreditation schemes operating in your area.

If you decide to rent a property through an estate/letting agent, you will be charged certain fees and costs. These will be declared by the agent prior to you agreeing to their services.

Property types that you can rent include houses, bungalows, flats/apartments, and rooms in a shared houses/a house of multiple occupancy (HMO). This is normally a private bedroom with a shared bathroom, kitchen and living area. The number of tenants in the house will vary.

Many landlords have certain rules attached to renting their property. This includes rules about children, smoking, and pets. Be sure to check if there are any such rules as it may be that certain rules will impact on your choice of property. Similarly, be sure to check who is responsible for paying the bills associated with the property. This includes gas, electricity, water, council tax and internet services. Some tenancy agreements include these bills in the monthly cost.

Once you have chosen the property you would like to rent, you will need to complete an application. The landlord and/or agent acting on behalf of the landlord will need to confirm your identity, and they will also likely want to know your immigration status, credit history and employment status. Some may also ask for someone to act as your guarantor in order for the tenancy agreement to proceed.

You will be presented with a written tenancy agreement. The most common form of tenancy is called an assured shorthold tenancy (AST). Typically, tenancy agreements are fixed for a period of time. This is usually a minimum of 6 months, but more commonly 12 months. Occasionally, a landlord will also agree to a shorter or longer term of let.

It is important that you read the tenancy agreement carefully. If you are unsure about anything, we would advise that you seek legal advice, or advice from gov.uk or Citizens Advice.

There is further information available about [renting a property and responsibilities of the landlord and tenant](#) on the Gov.uk website.

Temporary accommodation

If you are unable to secure somewhere to live before you arrive in the UK, and you do not have friends or family to stay with, you may require some temporary accommodation.

There are a number of hotels in the area, ranging from [budget friendly hotels](#) to [unique and boutique hotels](#). It may be worth using online comparison sites to find the best price for the hotel you wish to stay at.

If you require more facilities than a hotel provides, you may wish to look to rent a property short term via [AirBnB](#). Most of the properties on here are designed for short term use only, therefore you may find you are unable to book for longer than a couple of weeks. Some hosts may be able to offer longer so it's worth checking with them. Usually, you will have full use of the property including kitchen and cooking facilities which a hotel cannot provide.

Access to healthcare services

It is important that you look after yourself. This includes not only your physical health but also your dental and mental health, and that of your family as well.

It is therefore very important that when you arrive into the UK you register with both a GP and a dentist of your choosing.

[Help me find a GP](#)

[Help me find a dentist](#)

In the UK, you are expected to pay a contribution towards the cost of your dental care. The amount you pay will differ depending on whether you are an NHS patient or a private patient. Most dentists will provide both NHS and private treatment so you should check whether the treatment you are paying for is NHS or private or a combination of the two.

NHS Care

Most NHS services operate a residence-based healthcare system. Most NHS services are free to people who are ordinarily resident in the UK.

Being ordinarily resident is not dependent on nationality, payment of UK taxes, National Insurance (NI) contributions, being registered with a GP, having an NHS number, or owning property in the UK.

Ordinarily resident means living in the UK on a lawful and properly settled basis for the time being, and you'll be asked to prove this.

[Find out more about accessing NHS services when you move to the UK.](#)

Prescription charges

Most adults in England must pay prescription charges, unless they are exempt if they are under 16 or over 60 years of age, are 16-18 years old and in full time education, are pregnant or have had a baby in the previous 12 months or have a specified medical condition.

Some items are always free, including contraceptives and medicines prescribed for hospital inpatients.

The current prescription charge is £9.90 per item (June 2024).

Emergency services

In case of an emergency, ring 999, and depending on your need ask for either: ambulance, police, or fire services.

Emergency services in the UK are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are free of charge. Medical emergencies that would require you to ring 999 include serious illness and/or major injury that is a risk to life or limb.

If you need urgent healthcare advice, but it is not life-threatening, you are advised to either ring NHS 111, visit a local NHS walk-in centre, urgent care centre or minor injuries unit or to make your own way to your local accident and emergency department.

For less urgent healthcare needs, you should consider self-care at home, contacting your local pharmacist or visiting or calling your GP.

The NHS 111 service is provided by a team of fully trained staff advisors who will assess your symptoms and then direct you accordingly. They may provide you with self-care advice; connect you to an emergency nurse, dentist, or GP; arrange for you to be seen face to face; or send an ambulance directly if they feel it is necessary.

Citizens advice

[Citizens advice](#) provides free, independent, confidential, and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities.

They help with issues relating to money, benefits, housing, employment, and consumer rights.

They can be contacted online, face to face (they have sites across the region), over the phone or via webchat.

[Citizens Advice Shropshire](#)

[Citizens Advice Telford & Wrekin](#)