

Healthwatch Board meeting
14 March 2016
Finance subgroup update - paper 1
Presented by: Bev Bookless

Members of the Board are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report

The finance subgroup met on 22 February 2016 and considered the budget position to the end of December 2016 (quarter 3) and the proposed budget for 2016-17.

Key points to note on the current budget year

- There have been overspends on
 - The database - related to the purchase of the feedback centre and MoodRaker
 - Consultancy - due to the development of the project management framework and staff vacancies
 - Equipment purchases - due to the office move
- The spend on participant support has increased significantly and this reflects work that is being done to reach seldom heard communities
- The local Healthwatch network in the North East has been successful in securing a bid for funds to support the work on the North East urgent and emergency care network; we will be 'managing' the funds that are expected to be spent during this financial year

Key points to note for the 2016-17 budget

- The budget has been split into two six month portions to reflect the desired timetable for independence
- A balanced budget should be achieved although this is partly conditional on achieving a small amount of additional income - it is planned that this will come from roll out of access to the feedback centre data; there are areas, such as consultancy and marketing, where expenditure could be reduced to compensate if additional income is not found
- The budget includes some contingency and legal costs associated with the contract re-tender