

Committee minutes

30 June 2021 5pm–6.30pm

Online via Zoom

Committee members present

Peter Deans (PD) Healthwatch Newcastle Chair

Terry Bearpark (TB)

Feyi Awotona (FA)

In attendance

Siobhan O’Neil (SO) Chief Executive Officer

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 PD welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies were sent from Alisdair Cameron (AC) and Gill Clancy (GC)

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

3.1 The minutes for the meeting were agreed as a true record.

3.2 Committee members discussed the benefit of recording the changes made by GP practices over the past 12+ months

3.3 Actions:

3.3.1 PD and SO to raise the value of this in upcoming meetings with the Outer West Primary Care Network and with the commissioner in the monitoring meeting.

3.3.2 SO to arrange for the Terms of Reference from sub groups to be circulated.

3.3.3 SO to provide TB with information on Healthwatch England event on access to GPs for those who are digitally excluded.

4. Strategy

4.1 PD presented on the strategy session recently undertaken by the Tell Us North board and which supported the strategy paper circulated in advance.

4.2 Committee members discussed the strategy as it relates to delivery of the Healthwatch contracts and to Tell Us North (TUN). This included the mission and vision for TUN, roles of Healthwatch Committees and TUN board and acknowledgement that this is the start of a process.

4.3 Actions:

4.3.1 Committee members comments on TUN's mission and vision to be sent to PD

4.3.2 TB to circulate papers she mentioned in the meeting to Committee members present.

4.3.3 Absent Committee members to send any comments on the strategy to SO.

4.3.4 PD and SO to consider how to improve communication with Committee members between meetings.

4.3.5 To hold further meetings involving Board and Committee members to refine our strategy as necessary in the run up to the tenders.

5. Priorities update

5.1 SO gave an update on the priority work.

5.2 Service Provision for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The early stages of this work are going well, organisations are being very helpful and appreciate the offer of the small grant for participating. A check in meeting is arranged for 2 July.

5.3 Annual Health Checks for People with a Learning Disability. Initial discussions have taken place with Skills for People who we hope will undertake this work on our behalf, they have connections, networks and expertise that will strengthen delivery. TB will be the link with the Committee and Kim Newton will be the staff link to this work.

5.4 Mental health needs. We continue to keep a watching brief on this area.

5.5 Vaccines in Care Home settings. There has been a national policy shift whereby it will be mandatory for staff in CQC registered Care Home to be vaccinated. Whilst the scope of the work may have changed there may still be value in proceeding and a meeting is hopefully going ahead on 5 July to explore this further.

5.6 Place based work in Newcastle's Outer West. This is at a very early stage of exploration and will build on our recent work with the Primary Care Network. SO has been using a template provided by TB to develop the scope and this has been helpful.

6. Process and quality assurance

6.1 PD updated Committee members on some recent work which had identified the need to improve internal processes and quality assurance of work and reports.

6.2 Actions:

TB to act as Quality Assurance champion for the Committee.

7. Date and time of next meeting

Committee members agreed the need to bring forward the next meeting to week commencing 6 or 13 September 2021

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.