

## Committee minutes - unapproved

6 October 2021 10.30am - 12.30pm

Online via Zoom

### Committee members present

Peter Deans (PD) Healthwatch Newcastle Chair

Terry Bearpark (TB)

Feyi Awotona (FA)

Jon Knight (JK)

### In attendance

Siobhan O'Neil (SO) Chief Executive, HWN and HWG

Phill Capewell (PC) Operations Manager, HWN and HWG

Nikki Wills (NW) Administration Apprentice, HWN and HWG

### 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 PD welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited people to introduce themselves.

### 2. Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies were sent from Gill Clancy (GC).

### 3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

3.2 SO provided an update on actions and matters arising.

#### Action:

**PC to send JK previous Committee updates.**

### 4. Priorities update

4.1 SO provided an update on the domestic abuse priority, the draft report had been sent to members in advance.

4.2 TB provided background on her quality assurance role in reviewing the draft report.

4.3 Committee members commented on the report including:

- The process and its effectiveness, including what might be next on this work.
- Capacity and the Healthwatch role in taking a broad overview and contributing to the debate.
- Timeliness of the work.

#### Actions:

- TB to send updated comments on the report to SO.
- SO to speak to the report author on recommended changes.
- SO to invite report author to next Committee meeting to feedback and provide an honest reflection on the value of the work, the difference it is likely to make and what we could have done better in undertaking this work.

4.3.1 SO updated members on the work we are embarking on in the Outer West of Newcastle. The first meeting of partners is scheduled for 2 November. Whilst we are still at the exploratory stage of the work the question we seek to address is 'how does the integration of the health and care system work at a local level? How does it serve local people and involve them in design and delivery?' Our ambition is to explore and develop a model that can be shared with other Primary Care Networks and Healthwatch England.

4.3.2 PC updated members on progress with the work on annual health checks for people with a learning disability. Members discussed who else might be engaged in this work and the need to begin to make progress.

**Action:**

**SO to contact Skills for People to better understand capacity for their involvement in the work.**

**5. Future work programme**

5.1 SO talked through the paper, which had been circulated in advance.

5.2 Members discussed the priority setting process, including timings and the annual cycle, the operational capacity to deliver across the breadth of a local Healthwatch remit and the balance across all delivery domains.

5.3 Members agreed there is value in stepping back and taking stock of our work from time to time. That it is better to think about a programme of work across all delivery domains which balances impact across all that we do. That we should adopt a milestones approach which allows for flexibility beyond an annual delivery cycle.

5.4 Relationships between the Healthwatch Committee and Tell Us North and the use of the Healthwatch brand as a trusted, independent voice were discussed.

**Action:**

**SO to continue with the foundational work on the longer-term plan and structure using the Healthwatch England framework to guide thinking. Once this initial step is complete the wider team and Healthwatch Chair(s) to contribute and challenge thinking. Future proposals to be brought back to the Committee.**

**6. Date and time of next meeting**

15 December 2021, 11.15am – 12.30pm. This is a joint meeting with the Healthwatch Gateshead Committee.

**The meeting closed at 12.30pm.**