healthwatch Newcastle

Committee minutes - Public

01st October 2025: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Hybrid: at the Boardroom (Milburn House, Newcastle) in person and via Zoom

Committee members present

Michael Brown (MB)	(in person)
Feyi Awotona (FA)	(in Person)
Terry Bearpark (TB)	(in person)
Alex Hoole (AH)	(in Person)
Emily Sinclair (ES)	(in Person)
Alisdair Cameron (AC)	(Online via Zoom)

In attendance

Courtney Peel (CP)	Business Services Manager (in Person)
Daniel Milburn (DM)	Healthwatch Newcastle Lead officer (in Person)
Avish Johnson (AJ)	Business Support Officer (in Person)

Tobi Oludade(TO)	Observer (via zoom)
Roo Begom (RB)	Observer (in person)
Rogelio Rivera (RR)	Observer (in person)

1. Welcome by the Chair

1.1 MB welcomes everyone to the meeting and introduction were made.

1.2 MB welcomed Roo Begom, Rogelio Rivera and Tobi Oludade as observer to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

2.1 Nick Linfoot (NL), Ann Wynn (AW), Meera Soundararajan (MS), Yvonne Probert (YP) and Afsana Begum (AB) gave their apologies for the meeting

3. Minutes of meeting held on 23rd July 2025

3.1. Committee to continue sending any feedback on the website to LB (Communications and Information Officer)

3.2. Committee to continue sending any drop-in suggestions to DM.

3.3. The financial report has been shared with the committee following the previous meeting.

3.4. The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Electronic Decisions

4.1. None

5. Chair – Verbal Update

5.1. The North East North Cumbria (NENC) Regional Healthwatch Network meeting was held on 15 September and attended by MB, Chair of Healthwatch Gateshead. Key topics discussed included:

5.1.1. Network projects:

- A bid for the Digital Inclusion project was submitted
- A bid for Social Prescribing was also submitted but was unsuccessful.
- Healthwatch will be supporting the Primary Care Access Recovery Programme (PCARP)project, which commenced on 1 October, with a three-month engagement period.

Action – Request feedback on the Social Prescribing bid, identify who was successful, and share details with the committee.

5.1.2. Network delivery plan - highlighting the need to continue operating as usual until there is a change in legislation.

5.1.3. A discussion took place on the review of dentistry services as the 18-month plan has now concluded.

Action – MB to obtain details on ICB work relating to dentistry and share with the committee.

5.1.4. ICB Integrated delivery report – discussed as an opportunity to identify key measures that could help the public better understand how services are being delivered across the North East and North Cumbria.

Action – AJ to send the report to the committee for review and request any feedback to be shared with MB.

5.1.5. A finance review was presented for the Network, highlighting the importance of building up reserves.

5.1.6. Network Identity – The Network suggested adding a tagline to the Local Healthwatch logo The committee expressed concern that this might impact local identity and focus, and discussed its relevance to local work and projects. The committee agreed that the tagline could be used for regional and Network work but should not be included in local materials.

5.2. AJM feedback – A raw write-up from the table discussions at the AJM was presented, the committee were asked for feedback to be relayed to CP and AJ to consolidate and define the data for the next meeting.

5.2.1. The committee discussed the importance of maintaining the *Enter & View* role within the new Healthwatch model.

Action – Consolidate and present the findings at the next committee meeting.

6. CEO written update

6.1. Quarter 1 Monitoring return – has been submitted to the Commissioner and a copy have been sent to the committee

Action – Committee to review and share any feedback or concerns.

7. Project Update – Verbal Update

7.1. DM provided a brief update on all live projects, including their progress, current status, and potential deadlines and targets for completion.

Action – DM to provide committee with feedback from GPs on the Reasonable Adjustment Phase 1 Project Report.

11:32 AC left the meeting

7.2. DM provided an update on the Youthwatch programme, including focus groups, and informed the committee that Healthwatch has registered to attend upcoming open day events at the University.

8. Locality working update from Lead Officer

8.1. DM reported that locality working is continuing successfully, with drop-ins taking place across Newcastle across 66 sessions and engaging over 2,000 members of the public. A full report will be presented at the next committee meeting.

Action – Committee to provide any suggestions for drop-in sections.

Action – AH to send details to DM regarding a suggested venue in the outer west area.

Action - Committee members and observers interested in attending drop-ins should reach out to DM.

9. Finance Update – Verbal Update

9.1. There was nothing to report. Expenditure and income are as expected.

10. Nolan Principles

10.1. Everyone read and agreed on the Nolan Principles.

11. Standing Items

11.1. No reported safeguarding concerns, health and safety issues, equality and diversity concerns, or freedom of information requests.

12. Any other Business

12.1. Recruitment of committee members to be paused until we receive an update from the existing observers.

13. Date and time of next meeting.

13.1. Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 10:30 am.