

Committee minutes - ~~un~~approved

29th April 2021, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Online via Zoom

Committee members present

Peter Deans (PD) Healthwatch Newcastle Chair

Terry Bearpark (TB)

Feyi Awotona (FA)

Alisdair Cameron (AC)

Gill Clancy (GC)

In attendance

Siobhan O'Neil (SO) Chief Executive Officer

Cullagh Warnock (CW) Consultant

Lyndsay Yarde (LY) Associate

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 PD welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

2.1 Apologies were sent from Idah Dodzo (ID).

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

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

3.2 Action: The draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the committees will be shared in due course as work on governance progresses within Tell Us North (TUN).

4. Priority setting

4.1 Introduction

PD gave an overview, highlighting approximate costs for undertaking work on each priority, the need to rank priorities and the likelihood of their being two waves of delivery. Thanks were given to everyone who had contributed to the work in particular to TB for leading on the scoping of 'Annual Health Checks for People with a Learning Disability' in a voluntary capacity.

4.2 Committee members discussed the timescale for completion of priority projects and the link to the remaining term of the Healthwatch Newcastle contract and retendering process. Also the need to deliver impact and outcomes in the work.

5. Scoping papers overview and questions

Committee members received an overview of each of the scoping papers which had been circulated in advance:

- Service provision for children and young people affected by domestic abuse
- Access to GP Services
- Annual Health Checks for People with a Learning Disability
- Mental health needs

Following each summary committee members had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the merits and issues for each potential priority area. This included:

- The role of Healthwatch Newcastle as a neutral and independent voice
- The potential for timescales on delivery to flex and be shortened
- Being mindful of the government roadmap and the impact the lifting and any further restrictions would have on delivery.
- Pressures on partners and providers, particularly GP services and how this could impact their willingness to engage and work on HWN priorities
- The role Healthwatch can play in supporting providers of services to best engage with their communities and share good practice

5.1 PD and SO introduced two additional options for discussion. These were:

- Keeping resources in reserve so that as additional issues arise throughout the year, we have the capacity to be flexible and responsive.
- How providers of social care services can best engage with their communities (including patients, users, families / carers, staff) on the question of covid vaccinations for staff.

Committee members discussed these including the need to manage this well and our role in developing and disseminating good practice in engagement around contentious issues.

Actions:

Agreed that the vaccination and reserve ideas had merit. PD / SO to scope in greater detail the covid vaccination engagement piece and feedback to committee members for decision by email.

5.2 FA highlighted additional work to record the changes that GP practices have made to delivering services over the past 12+ months, understanding what has been done differently and what changes may be permanent. Also asking if the permanent changes being considered have been impact assessed.

Actions:

SO to arrange a meeting with FA and LY to discuss further, to get a view of what this might look like in practice and assess if this work is being carried out by others

6. Priority Setting Decisions

6.1 Committee members shared their views on and ranked the priorities presented, taking the following decisions:

Agreed Priorities:

- Service provision for children and young people affected by domestic abuse
- Annual Health Checks for People with a Learning Disability

Further work needed

- Access to GP Services

Actions:

SO to speak to LY to get a view on proceeding with this or focussing elsewhere

Phase 2

- Mental health needs

Actions:

To keep this priority on a watch list for further work, specifically to focus in on an area / theme which can have impact. If this is in the student / young people's space seek appropriate ethical approvals from within the universities.

7. Reflections on process

Committee members were asked for their reflections on the process of priority setting and how this might be improved. Overall the process has been positive: open, inclusive, and helpful with wide-ranging discussions that have stimulated debate and ensured well thought through decision-making.

8. Next steps

Actions

- Circulate minutes
- Undertake actions identified

9. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 30th June 2021 (currently on zoom).

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.