

## Committee minutes

19 October 2021 – 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Online via Zoom

### Committee members present

Michael Brown (MB) Chair

Mairi Cox (MC)

Semande Ayihongbe (SA)

### In attendance

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

Phill Capewell (PC) Operations Manager, HWN and HWG

Lyndsay Yarde (LY) Associate

### 1. Welcome and introductions

From MB

### 2. Apologies for absence

Lyn Boyle (LB) Shamshad Shah (SS) Jane Quilty (JQ)

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

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

3.2 SO updated on the actions from the previous meeting:

- New monthly update to ensure members are informed between meetings.
- Circulation of Kings Fund information
- ICS added as a regular agenda item

3.3 MB asked members to consider committee recruitment from their professional networks and that the engagement via priority projects be used as an opportunity to recruit.

### Actions:

- All members and outreach staff to promote the opportunity to join the Healthwatch Gateshead Committee.
- SO to follow up in new year with potential Committee member already spoken to.

### 4. Priority projects update

4.1 LY provided an update on the work she is leading on community resilience. This covers the Teams/Dunston and Birtley/Lamesley areas of Gateshead. These choices were informed by the Gateshead Council Neighbourhood Management Team. So far 90+ people have responded to the survey questions, largely through face-to-face conversations in community settings, e.g. luncheon clubs, wellbeing walks and community centres. The engagement phase will continue up to the second week in November before moving into the analysis and report writing phase. SA suggested contacting leaders of faith communities in Gateshead to increase engagement with minoritized communities.

4.2 PC provided an update on the Gateshead Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project; this is still at a relatively early stage, and we continue to work with external experts to

increase our reach into communities. This includes Peace of Mind a refugee-led community organisation who support refugees and asylum seekers. They will lead on the engagement side of the work, which has the aim of engaging through peer support and peer research. It is hoped that the people supporting in this activity will have access accredited training and increased skills in self advocacy. This enables the project to have a lasting benefit for this community. Healthwatch Gateshead staff will lead on the engagement with services. This is an iterative piece of work with priorities being defined by refugees and asylum seekers.

## **5. Future work programme**

5.1 SO presented on a discussion paper, previously circulated and members discussed the priority setting process, the scope of Healthwatch Gateshead's remit and balancing delivery across all areas of work.

5.2 MB shared the committee's experience of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the learning from this, that priority work must be flexible and responsive.

5.3 Members agreed the value in thinking about a programme of work rather than priority projects, engagement and information and advice. Also to considering a 6 monthly work programme.

5.4 Members discussed the value of responding to current feedback around access to GPs and dentistry, this may include working in partnership with other local Healthwatch in the North of Tyne area.

5.5 Members also discussed the role we can play in informing people about the breadth of services available through general practice e.g. nurse practitioners, social prescribing and so on.

### **Actions:**

- **MB to speak to those Committee members not present about Access to GPs and Dentistry Committees, feeding back to the team for planning.**
- **SO to work with other local Healthwatch and explore benefits of joint work.**

## **6 ICS update**

6.1 SO provided members with a brief update on the Integrated Care System (ICS). This focussed on the pace of change to ensure the ICS is ready for the 1 April 2022 deadline and the negotiations between the thirteen local Healthwatch covered by the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) ICS. SO is part of a subgroup tasked with working on the negotiations and a second meeting with representatives from the NENC ICS is taking place today.

### **Action:**

**SO to further update members as new information is available from the work being done on engagement in the ICS by the North East network of Healthwatch.**

## **7 Date and time of next meeting**

Wednesday 15 December 2021, 11.15am – 12.30pm.

No other business.

**The meeting closed at 3.15pm**