Committee minutes

17th January 2023 – 11 am

Online via Zoom

Committee members present.

Michael Brown (MB) Chair

Mairi Cox (MC)

Semande Ayihongbe (SA)

Lyn Boyle (LB)

In attendance

Yvonne Probert (YP) CEO

Phill Capewell (PC) Deputy CEO

Michelle Brannigan (MAB) Business and Governance Manager

1. Welcome and introductions.
   1. It was agreed to record the meeting for training purposes
   2. MB welcomed everyone and introduced the new CEO, Yvonne Probert. Yvonne gave a brief introduction, and each committee member gave a brief introduction.
2. Apologies for absence
   1. Shamshad Shah gave apologies.
3. Minutes of previous meeting/matters arising
   1. The minutes of the meeting was agreed as a true record.
   2. MB asked about the Refugee and Asylum seeker (RAS) work and Phill gave an update. There was originally a concern around GP access but was then found not to be an issue. Other services in the area have done extensive work and mitigated many problems.

Action: PC to find out the position of the RAS off in order to close it off or not.

* 1. PC gave an update on the Gateshead Mental Health Transformation strategy, which is in year 2 of a 3 year plan. It is noted that the strategy was set up to make efficiencies yet several good projects have already been established such as a crisis hub for men and various grants have been distributed to the VCSE sector. Mental Health is still a high priority as waiting lists are still over 18 months. SA commented that this is what she is finding in her work but there are some bridging services that are offering basic counselling whilst a patient is on a waiting list.

Action: YP to contact Semande and update the Healthwatch Gateshead resources/responses when signposting.

1. Healthwatch Gateshead Projects Update
   1. Phill gave a detailed report on the past, current, and future projects of HWG. Paper attached was sent out with the agenda.

Action: TB to complete the Gateshead carers surveys report by the end of this month – 31.01.2023

* 1. Communications will be grouped and sent by a single email on Friday of each week for committee members, this will include links to current surveys

Action: MAB to schedule in email communications for all committee members

* 1. The SEND project and report has been received very positive with various organisations including the joint commissioning strategy and will be attached as an appendix to their strategy documents. The education dept has also looked at the findings and will be implementing HWG recommendations. The report will continue to be published widely throughout Gateshead health and wellbeing services. Report had been circulated to Committee members with the agenda.
  2. MB thanked PC for the update and is pleased with the progress HWG has made with these projects
  3. PC presented the organisational chart which defines the current staffing structure within Tell Us North and including the defining of roles for Healthwatch Gateshead and Healthwatch Newcastle staff

1. ICS update
   1. PC gave a verbal report on the ICS and noted that Healthwatch has helped with the engagement strategy, which has meant the North East is the first ICS to go out to public consultation on it.
   2. PC updated the committee on securing some additional communications resources as part of the joint network communications, included in the ICS/HW operating protocol.
   3. MB noted that there had been conversations around the accountability of the ICS.
2. Gateshead Council budget consultation
   1. YP introduced the Gateshead budget consultation, which had been previously emailed to all members with the agenda. There was a discussion around leisure services, which was not at formal consultation stage until 2024. The committee members agreed that leisure services and environmental services (such as parks and green spaces) were an important part of health and wellbeing and the prevention of health inequalities.
   2. The budget is proposing changes to commissioning social care services, the committee felt that this would have a detrimental effect and could lead to a poor quality of service.

Action: YP to write a draft proposal to the budget consultation to circulate to all members before 31st January 2023, for comments before the 7th of February 2023 ready for submitting by 9th February 2023.

1. Standing Items
   1. There have been no safeguarding incidents reported
   2. There have been no health and safety incidents reported
   3. There have been no equality, diversity and inclusion incidents reported
2. Any other business
   1. YP noted that there is an annual update to the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing board for work done between February 2022 and January 2023.

Action: YP to draft an annual update for the Health and Wellbeing board and circulate it to all committee members after its presentation at the end of January.

1. Date and time of next meeting
   1. The date of the next meeting is 18th April at 6pm

Action: MAB to email all committee members for their preference of an in-person meeting or virtual meeting via zoom.