Committee minutes

18th April 2023 – 6 pm

Hybrid at MEA House and via Zoom

Committee members present.

Michael Brown (MB) Chair

Semande Ayihongbe (SA) (via zoom)

Lyn Boyle (LB)

In attendance

Yvonne Probert (YP) CEO

Michelle Brannigan (MAB) Business Services Manager

Terry Bearpark (TB) Quality Assurance Officer

1. Welcome and introductions.

MB welcomed everyone and introduced Terry Bearpark. Terry introduced the work of the Committee Functional Review task and finish group she is leading on.

1. Apologies for absence
   1. Shamshad Shah and Mairi Cox gave apologies.
2. Minutes of previous meeting/matters arising
   1. The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.
   2. MB asked about the Refugee and Asylum seeker (RAS) work and YP gave an update. There is a fact-finding exercise, collaborating with Gem Arts, a Gateshead GPs and HAREF Allies.

Action: YP to bring details from the fact-finding exercise to the next meeting.

* 1. MB asked about the actions from the previous meeting regarding signposting it was agreed as an action to be carried forward.

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

* 1. MB thanked YP for her detailed response to the Gateshead Council budget consultation which had been submitted.

1. CEO Update
   1. YP informed the members that Tell Us North had undergone a partial restructure and one member of staff had left the organisation.
   2. YP stated that our place on the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee was going well, and relationships were being built across Gateshead. Information from the meetings was evaluated and relevant information was forwarded and/or summarised then sent to Committee Members.
   3. HWG engaged with other strategic boards and steering groups; the Gateshead Cares System, which is a multi-agency group that has subgroups which Healthwatch Gateshead sit on including Children and Young People, Older People, Mental Health Transformation, PCN development, and the Gateshead Forum. The team is currently looking at which meetings are relevant to Healthwatch Gateshead and are building the reputation at a grassroots level as well as at a strategic level.
2. Healthwatch Gateshead projects update
   1. The report on Loneliness and Social Isolation in people over 65+ will be published soon.
   2. The SEND report which has been published has received a welcome response from Gateshead Council. The recommendations from the report have now formed part of the SEND strategy and are being implemented. We may be asked to do further work following up on this.
   3. We are currently working on collecting information on people’s lived experiences of Autism, Winter pressures including how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting people’s health outcomes, and the Healthwatch annual survey which will inform our future priorities. MB suggested we keep a close eye on the impact the industrial action in the health service is having on the health and social care services in Gateshead and how this affects people’s health care needs. SA asked about the questions on the loneliness survey and what they would cover, TB said the questions were to establish people's views on what it meant to them and what support was available in their local community. YP stated that national, as well as regional data, would be considered when compiling the report to give a fuller picture.
3. ICS update
   1. YP gave an update on the Integrated Care Strategy, which was agreed in early 2023, and is now creating at local level the ICB Gateshead Place board as a standalone alongside the existing Health and Wellbeing Board. MB stated it was disappointing to see that all the health and social care boards had not been integrated from the outset.
4. Quality Account for Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
   1. YP gave an overview of the different Quality Accounts Healthwatch Gateshead will be asked to respond to as statutory consultee. YP will ask for feedback from the Committee Members when the Quality Accounts come through, which could be both negative and positive comments.

Action: Committee Members to respond to all statutory Quality Accounts. MAB will forward details of a Quality Account online TEAMs meeting where a formal presentation will be made by the Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust. Committee Members were asked to attend. Follow up feedback will be given via email which YP will gather to draft a Healthwatch Gateshead response.

1. Healthwatch England Priorities
   1. YP gave an overview of the Healthwatch England priorities which had been published and had previously been circulated to the Committee Members via email.
2. 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.
3. Any other business
   1. MB noted that there had been no contact from Committee member Jane Quilty even after many attempts, so it was agreed to remove Jane as a Healthwatch Gateshead Committee Member
   2. LB asked about publicity for Healthwatch Gateshead activities, YP stated we had a variety of social media channels, the new website had been updated and was easier to access. Also, the team is exploring leaflets as it was felt we had to ensure those without digital access still had relevant information from Healthwatch Gateshead.
   3. MB noted the Hybrid meeting had worked well and we would continue to offer members this option.
4. Date and time of next meeting
   1. The date of the next meeting is 20th July 11am via a Hybrid model.