

Committee minutes – Public

12th March 2025 – 2 pm to 3:30pm

Hybrid: at the Boardroom (Gateshead Leisure Centre) in person and via Zoom

Committee members present.

Michael Brown – Chair	(MB)	(in person)
Mairi Cox	(MC)	(via zoom)
Lyn Boyle	(LB)	(in person)
Peter Wilson	(PW)	(in person)
Izzy Gray	(IG)	(in person)
Privilege Garaba	(PG)	(in person)
Semande Ayihonbe	(SA)	(via zoom)

In attendance

Yvonne Probert	(YP)	CEO Tells us North (in person)
Courtney Peel	(CP)	Business Services Manager (via Zoom)
Afsana Begum	(AB)	Research and engagement manager (via Zoom)
Jack Tinkler	(JT)	Healthwatch Gateshead Lead Officer (in person)
Lewis Brown	(LB)	Information & communication Officer (via Zoom)
Avish Johnson	(AJ)	Business Support Officer (in person)
Gillian Hindson	(GH)	Observer (in person)

1. Welcome and introductions.

- 1.1. MB welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.
- 1.2. Gillian Hindson was introduced and welcomed to the meeting as an observer.
- 1.3. Izzy Gray was proposed to be co-opted to be a committee member, and everyone agreed.

2. Apologies for absence.

Alan Guest (AG) and Shamshad Shah (SS) gave apologies for the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meeting/matters arising.

- 3.1. The Dash review report has been delayed and is now expected to be published by the end of March.
- 3.2. Anyone interested to attend the NENC Regional Healthwatch Network Event – to contact MB or YP at the earliest.

- 3.3. The first Enter & View visit was conducted on 20th February 2025 at Sister Winifred Laver Centre, a residential promoting independence facility for patients stepping-up and stepping-down from hospital. MB, along with staff members, Nooshin Shabani and JT, visited the Sister Winifred Laver Centre. They spoke with residents as well as their family members and received positive feedback. Based on their observations, the facility appeared to be well-run with good hygiene and safety standards. A detailed report will be shared shortly.
- 3.4. The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th of January 2025 were approved as a true record.

4. Electronic Decisions

- 4.1. None.

5. Chair Update

- 5.1. Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust – Governors Meeting:
- 5.1.1. Targeted Health Check – A programme aimed at detecting and treating lung cancer at an early stage. Issues regarding treatment delays and waiting times were discussed.
 - 5.1.2. One-year financial settlement plan – with shift in the 3 major areas of the NHS 10-year plan to be implemented to reduce deficit and make more saving in the North East with new transformation brought in at NHS.
 - 5.1.3. Discussion happened around 10-year plan and strategies changes for the future to be brought about from the feedback.
 - 5.1.4. Keep a watch on the national changes and how it affects local trust.
- 5.2. Newcastle Marmot City conference
- 5.2.1. A discussion took place on how life expectancy increased until 2010 but has been declining in recent years and how this affects local residents. Changes are being brought in to make Newcastle a Marmot city.
 - 5.2.2. Several statistics indicated that social mobility remains poor in parts of North East.
 - 5.2.3. A two-year programme will be introduced to tackle these issues and reduce the gap in life expectancy.
 - 5.2.4. MB questioned why Gateshead was not included in the planning, given the interlinked health services between Gateshead and Newcastle.

Action – YP to send the report from the conference to committee members when it is available.

5.3. Star awards – The sub-group are in the process of finalising the process, and the next meeting is to be held at the end of March. A draft is expected to be available for the next meeting to discuss and approve.

6. CEO Update

6.1. Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust have invited Healthwatch Gateshead to the presentation on their Quality Accounts to be delivered at the Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting. The committee agreed to attend this presentation and not have a separate presentation for Healthwatch Gateshead, as done in the past.

7. Website

7.1. LB spoke about the current website layout and how it can be utilised further to share important information and create a greater impact on service users. The committee was requested to review the website and provide feedback on two key aspects: ease of access to important health-related information and their first impressions of the website.

Action – MB to collect feedback from the committee and share it with LB by the end of March.

8. Project Update

8.1. Hospital Discharge – Draft report in progress and still on track to be published by end of March 2025.

8.2. Women's Health Menopause and HRT – Draft report has been produced and has been shared with committee/partners involved in its co-production. LB working on branding before publishing.

Action – Any change to be made to contact AB by the end of the week.

8.3. Safeguarding Board – Gateshead Council delayed the project due to the independent review process they were focusing on. Further information is expected after the Safeguarding Adults Board meeting in June.

8.4. Gateshead Autism – Awaiting further information from Gateshead Council.

8.5. Enter & View – Authorised Representatives undertook their first visit to Sister Winifred Laver Centre on 20th February 2025. Awaiting survey responses from staff and family/carers and for the Enter & View Officer/Research & Data Officer to do the data analysis. Next step is to draft the report.

- 8.6. Youthwatch – Completed first workshop with NE Youth Focus. Implemented signposting and facilitated joint working with other organisations. The second workshop with students at Gateshead College is scheduled for 13th March.
- 8.7. A report outlining various focus areas under each priority topic for 2024/25 was presented. One focus area is to be selected for research and study.
- Action – AB to share the document with committee members.
- Action – Committee members to review the document, provide feedback to YP, and select their one priority topic by the end of next week.
- Action – An electronic decision on the final priority topic to be made by the end of March 2025, with sign-off at the next committee meeting.
- 8.8. ICB Regional project update:
- 8.8.1. Dentistry – Integrated Care Board (ICB) have not yet published the Dentistry report, it is expected before the end of March 2025.
- 8.8.2. NEAS – ICB have not yet published the report yet.
- 8.8.3. Women's Health: the BIG conversation – ICB have not yet published the report, it is expected before the end of March 2025.
- 8.8.4. The NHS 10-year plan – Local workshops have been completed, feedback has been shared, and we are awaiting the Regional and National reports.
- 8.8.5. Understanding Vaccinations – Focuses on why vaccination uptake this winter has been lower than expected. Healthwatch Gateshead has launched a short survey and is currently in the engagement stage.

9. Volunteering Review

- 9.1. New committee member induction to be completed soon, which will be a joint session for Healthwatch Gateshead and Healthwatch Newcastle.
- Action – YP to send an invite to new members.

10. Locality working update

- 10.1. JT stated that the locality working was continuing successfully with a variety of drop-ins across Gateshead.
- 10.2. JT presented the detailed quarter 3 Healthwatch Gateshead Engagement data showcasing the number of people the staff have engaged with and emerging themes at various localities.
- 10.3. JT also presented detailed signposting data, highlighting various issues, general public experiences, and the impact created by Healthwatch.
- 10.4. The committee suggested holding drop-in sessions at Metrocentre, Eldon Square, and Gateshead Leisure Centre.

Action – A review of trends and a comparison of quarterly data to be presented at the May meeting, along with Q4 data and the results from the annual surveys (stakeholder and public).

11. Finance Update

11.1. No updates to report on, income and expenditure are as expected.

12. Standing Items

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

13. Any other business

13.1. None.

14. Date and time of next meeting.

14.1. Tuesday 13th May 2025 – 2 pm.