

Chair's Report

Purpose

1. This report sets out public activities carried out by the Chair since the last Board meeting, and a commentary on aspects of the local health and care system.

Key issues

2. Appendix 1 lists the Chair's external meetings from 1 May to 30th June 2019. Directors representative activities are maintained in a strategic engagement log.
3. Sections 5 - 9 set out the Healthwatch response to our Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group as they begin a first phase of tackling the financial crisis. Section 10 updates on the annual NHS Trust Quality Accounts.

Action required by the Board

4. The Board is asked to:
 - Note the report.

Author

Val Moore, Chair

10th July 2019

Tackling the funding crisis in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

5. Funding for health and care services is under unprecedented pressure in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Our local health commissioner says that the funding allocation from government is not matched to our population numbers nor the population growth forecast.
6. Huge savings need to be made, with community services (out of hospital care) being looked at first. There is a £192 million gap, with £33million needing to be saved from the CCG budget this year alone, focussing first where there may be duplication in commissioned services or efficiencies to be made.
7. An open letter to the CCG is on our websites¹². Our Healthwatch asks for transparency in tackling these complex challenges. We want good practice in engaging patients and communities, and we will listen carefully to understand the potential impacts on vulnerable people.
8. We are concerned about the potential impact on voluntary sector grants and contracts. A large number of on-the-ground voluntary and community sector organisations may see cuts, many of whom contribute to keeping people out of hospital and ensuring they can come home quickly with support.
9. We welcome the CCG's honesty about the scale of the cuts and their plan to hold Big Conversations about what's important to people locally. The engagement work we have done recently on the NHS Long Term Plan will be a useful contribution - see CEO report. A new Healthwatch project to understand some of the key values a cross section of our population have on using NHS resources wisely will launch in the early autumn. Methods for such a forum to deliberate community values is being developed with the CCG to help with informing the difficult choices to come.

¹ <http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/news/tackling-nhs-funding-crisis-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough>

² <https://www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk/tackling-the-nhs-funding-crisis-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

NHS Trust Annual Quality Accounts

10. All NHS Trusts have to account to the public for quality as well as finance each year. Healthwatch and local authorities must be given a preview and opportunity to contribute a statement then included in the final published Quality Account. We always urge Trusts to produce briefer leaflets on key areas to inform and engage the public on service quality improvements. The full reports will be available from July on Trust websites and at their AGMs and cover a range of nationally mandated topics they also update on local priorities to improve quality. Thanks go to our staff and directors who have read the Quality Accounts and formulated the Healthwatch responses.

Appendix 1- Meetings attended by the Chair 1st May to 30th June 2019

Meeting	Purpose	Date
Continuing Health Care Complex Cases Panel	Lay representative	07/05
Cambridgeshire County Council Health Liaison Group	Member	09/05
Interviews for Cambridgeshire Community Services Non-Executive Director	External panel member	10/05
Healthwatch Board and Clinical Commissioning Group meeting about engagement plans	Chair/host	16/05
PosAbility AGM	Observer	17/05
Joint Safeguarding Executive Board, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Member	20/05
NHS Long Term Plan public survey stakeholder meeting	Chair/host	30/05
Volunteer Week celebration	Chair/host	04/06
Continuing Health Care Complex Cases Panel	Lay representative	18/06
STP Clinical Communities Forum	Member	20/6
Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board	Member	24/06
RAND Europe reception	Participant	25/06

Plus

Healthwatch Board in public (08/05) and Board development meetings (12/06)

1 Chair and director meeting