

Chair's report

Purpose

1. To update the Board on recent meetings I Have attended (see Appendix 1). In addition, I have held various meetings with our CEO, staff and NEDs in person, via zoom/teams and by telephone.

Key issues

2. As you will expect I have spent time with our new CEO, Julian Stanley in his first three months in the "hot seat". We have struck up a positive working relationship in which I have counselled him to take his time getting to know our Healthwatch, our staff and the Health and Care system to ensure we build on the strong relationships we enjoy. I have been able to offer him guidance during his induction and I am grateful to all NEDs who have also helped Julian with various matters. I am pleased to report Julian is learning fast - this is a huge highly complicated system we engage with!
3. In June we held a Board development session which enabled NEDs and Julian to have a free ranging discussion about our Healthwatch agenda going forward and therefore our priorities. The Board discussed how we can be most effective in championing the needs of those we serve. In the Autumn we will review our position at the half year including our financial forecast - like everyone we are experiencing raising costs!
4. I continue to attend the Integrated Care Board meetings as well as the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board meetings on behalf of Healthwatch. Progress is being made at both to work together to "join up" care and the plans now in place should lead to improvements to the patient/user's experience and outcomes over time. However, I consistently remind all leaders of the system that as it currently remains under great pressure patient's anxieties grow.

Long waiting times, difficult access to GPs and dentists can lead to poorer outcomes – in particular for the growing number of young people with mental health issues. Our local NHS and Councils need to be relentless in accelerating improvements to the patient experience now. The long-awaited NHS workforce plan is welcome but where is the one for Social Care?

5. Last month I was part of a panel interviewing for the new Chief Executive of NWAFT. Hannah Coffey has now been appointed by the Trust. She was most recently Acting CEO at Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust and has extensive experience in the NHS. We wish her great successes in this role as she joins at such an exciting time following the news of a new hospital to be built at Hinchingsbrooke.

Action required by the Board

The board is asked:

To note the contents of the report.

Author: Stewart Francis, Chair

19th July 2023

Appendix 1

Meetings attended by the Chair – 1st April 2023 – 30th June 2023

Meeting	Date
ICB ABU development meeting	26 th Apr
Dr Neil Moda - GP service development	28 th Apr
ICB Public meeting	12 th May
ICB Private meeting	12 th May
ICB Strategy development meeting	12 th May
Healthwatch Peterborough Forum	25 th May
John O'Brein - Chair ICB	6 th Jun
Health and Wellbeing Joint Board meeting/Integrated Care Partnership	6 th Jun
ICB ABU development meeting	7 th Jun
Healthwatch Board development session	14 th Jun
NWAFT CEO appointment panel	22 nd Jun
ICB Public meeting	30 th Jun
Dr Andrew Anderson - Urgent care	13 th Jul
ICB Public meeting	14 th Jul
ICB Strategic development meeting	14 th Jul
Healthwatch Summit working group	17 th Jul