

Chair's Report

Purpose

1. To update the Board on recent meetings I have attended (see Appendix 1). In addition, I have attended a number of planning meetings with our CEO.

Key Issues

2. Since the last Board meeting much of my focus has remained on the development of the ICS and our relationships with it at all levels. Sandie and I have been coordinating the approach. I believe it is essential at the earliest opportunity that we embed Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough engagement with the ICS in the areas we can make a real difference. All indications are that the ICS is prepared and willing to make the cultural shift to ensure that users have the opportunity to shape their health and care services. We must always be wary of 'box ticking syndrome' but so far there appears to be a genuine desire to engage with Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and our contributions are welcomed.
3. I am delighted that it is now proposed that Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is to be offered a non-voting seat on the ICS Board and our CEO will have a seat with other system directors. The system is still evolving and will be made up of a number of layers – North and South Place, Accountable Business Units, neighbourhoods etc. It has already been announced that the commencement of the ICS system across England is to be delayed until July and all integration and commissioning arrangements are unlikely to be in place by then. This is a major undertaking but much of what is going on does not and should not involve Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough participation. We are a small

organisation with limited resources (people and finances). This means we are going to have to work 'smart' if we are to be at our most effective on behalf of our constituency and support and challenge the new system as appropriate to provide better outcomes.

4. I believe we should address the new challenges that will flow for us at our Strategic Development Meeting on 25th April and to that end we have invited Kit Connick, Director of Strategy at the ICS to join us. She can bring us up to date with progress and Directors will have the opportunity to ask questions. After this we can discuss amongst ourselves any changes we need to take forward to ensure we are best placed to interface productively with the new system. This should be across all aspects of our work.
5. I continue to meet one to one with system leaders. These meetings provide opportunities to both listen and discuss our agenda which most frequently is around engagement and health inequalities. Of the Core+20 cohort in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 96% are in the north. For this reason, I am meeting with the Leader and new CEO of PCC and the Combined Authority Mayor to continue to push for a joined-up approach to tackling health inequalities.
6. I am pleased that as part of the 22/23 budget planning we are undertaking a full salary review this year as this has not been done for some time and we must ensure that the salaries we are offering to our staff are appropriate for the posts by benchmarking other with similar organisations.
7. Likewise the review of our auditors covering both the support we need and value for money is underway and is an important part of our governance arrangements. Recommendations will be made to the General Purposes Group and then brought to the Board and AGM.

8. Finally, I was delighted to attend my first Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough volunteers meeting and meet many of those doing such brilliant work. I took the opportunity to thank those present on behalf of the Board and promised to occasionally attend events they are participating in.

Appendix 1

Meetings attended by the Chair 21st January to 22nd March 2022

Meeting	Date
Healthwatch Heath & Care Forums Development meeting	21 st Jan
Local Outbreak Engagement Board	21 st Jan
Cllr Susan Van de Ven, Chair HWB, CCC	24 th Jan
Healthwatch Peterborough Health and Care Forum	27 th Jan
NWAFT Board Meeting	8 th Feb
Oliver Hayward, Commissioner PCC & CCC	21 st Feb
ICS System Partnership Board (in private)	23 rd Feb
Healthwatch Volunteers Meeting	28 th Feb
Healthwatch General Purposes Group Meeting	9 th Mar
Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Leader PCC	10 th Mar
ICS Most Capable Provider Meeting	11 th Mar
ICS Round Table – NWAFT, North Place ABU	14 th Mar
Interview Panel, ICS CMO	17 th Mar
Matt Gladstone, CEO PCC	22 nd Mar