

Chair's report

Purpose

- 1 To update the Board on recent meetings attended (see Appendix 1), besides meetings and consultations with the CEO and other NEDs.

Key issues

- 2 The Chair Stewart Francis is currently on a period of extended absence which began in August; we expect a phased return to work this autumn, until which time I am serving as Acting Chair, and will continue to support as Deputy Chair once he is back at the helm.
- 3 As detailed elsewhere, at this meeting we say goodbye to two long-serving and highly experienced (and highly valued) NEDs, Jonathan Wells and Nadia Emmony, and both Stewart and I wanted to reiterate our thanks and appreciation for all they have done for Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and for the people of this region, through their considerable efforts. As agreed at the previous Board meeting, the NED recruitment process is now open-ended rather than an annual procedure, enabling us to welcome talented new NEDs as and when the opportunity may arise. However, this autumn we will take active steps to recruit at least two suitable new NEDs.
- 4 Continuing the theme of recruitment, I regret to announce that our excellent CEO Sandie Smith has given notice of her intention to retire at the end of March next year. Her departure will of course be a significant loss to the organisation, but after several years of first-class service leading Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to achieve great things, she has certainly earned the right to move on to a new phase of her life in 2023. Stewart and I very much appreciate the advance warning she has given, which will enable a robust recruitment process for her successor to begin from October this year and should permit a smooth and thorough handover process. Naturally, we shall make every effort to ensure the appointment of a suitably excellent new CEO to lead the team into the future.
- 5 The other important area of activity over recent weeks to emphasise is that of ongoing engagement with the new Integrated Care System (ICS), which came into formal existence on 1st July. The Chair of Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has a non-voting seat on the ICS Board, enabling representation of

service-user needs at the highest levels. Stewart attended the first ICS Board meeting in July; I shall attend the second, which was postponed due to the National Mourning Period and will now take place on 30th September. Besides these formal meetings, we are pleased to have the opportunity to engage with different individuals and groups within the ICS on issues relevant to our remit, and we shall continue to do so in an ongoing effort to ensure the voices and experiences of patients, carers, families and the public will shape provision of health and care services for the region.

Appendix 1

Meetings attended by the Chair and Acting Chair 15th June to 28th September 2022

Meeting	Date
ICB in private and public	1 st July
Speech to the ABU Development Group	6 th July
Championing Access – Healthwatch Health and Care Summit	7 th July
Meeting with Steve Barnet, new Chair of NWAFT	14 th July
Health and Wellbeing Board at Alconbury	15 th July
Meeting with Kit McConnick, ICS Director of Strategy & Planning	8 th September
<i>Meeting with Katie Bramall-Stainer, CEO of Cambs LMC</i>	<i>28th September</i>