

Wolverhampton City Council

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

Date 23 MAY 2013

Contact Officer(s)/
Telephone Number(s)

MAXINE BYGRAVE

Title/Subject Matter

HEALTHWATCH WOLVERHAMPTON

Recommendations

It is recommended that Health Scrutiny receive this report and agree that a further update to be presented to a future meeting

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update the panel on Healthwatch Wolverhampton development

2.0 Background Information and current situation

2.1 On 1st April 2013 Healthwatch Wolverhampton was established in accordance with the duties outlined in the Health and social Care Act (2012). It was registered as a Community Interest Company and has 2 directors; one is the appointed Independent Chair. The aim is to create a strong local infrastructure for patient, recipients of social care, carers, young people and the general public's voices.

2.2 The Healthwatch directors are currently implementing governance structures to ensure an operational organisation. The transition with the existing Board has assured continuity as this is implemented. An organisational development review is ongoing.

2.3 At present Healthwatch Wolverhampton (HWW) is working through a number of key priorities. This includes the completion and sign off of all Wolverhampton LINK outstanding workplan activities. Some items may be included in the Healthwatch Workplan as they fall within the scope of Healthwatch and are areas, which have been identified by user experience information as requiring further review.

2.4 A communication strategy is under development, with promotional activities planned. HWW is planning a range of public events to gather feedback to influence the priorities of the workplan in addition to experience information currently being collated.

2.5 The additional Healthwatch function of providing advice, signposting and information is in place. Current feedback is identifying gaps in information due to changes in the NHS architecture we are liaising with local commissioners on this issue.

2.6 Healthwatch Wolverhampton is building on existing LINK relationships but establishing methods of engagement and information sharing protocols with stakeholders, including safeguarding, community, voluntary and advocacy organisations, commissioners and providers and those who undertake scrutiny and assessment.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 An SLA between Healthwatch Wolverhampton and the City Council is being finalised. Healthwatch Wolverhampton has decided to contract with WVSC to provide business support for a 9 month period to ensure continuity of service and limited loss of business legacy.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5.0 Equalities Implications

5.1 There are equalities implications associated with the development of Healthwatch as it is critical that Local Healthwatch is representative of our local population including the traditionally 'hard to reach' groups.