

Wolverhampton City Council

OPEN INFORMATION ITEM

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date **1 MAY 2013**

Originating Service Group(s) **COMMUNITY**

Contact Officer(s)/
Telephone Number(s) **K ROPER
(55)0975**

Title **HEALTHWATCH WOLVERHAMPTON**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Health and Wellbeing Board receive the report that provides information about the establishment of Healthwatch Wolverhampton.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members of Health and Wellbeing Board with information about Healthwatch Wolverhampton, its organisational form, Board members and work programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Local authorities in England had a duty to commission a Local Healthwatch organisation for their area by April 2013. Healthwatch organisations must be corporate bodies carrying out statutory functions. It is critical that Healthwatch is able to operate independently to represent the voice of local people in the strengthened system of strategic needs assessment and commissioning decision-making. 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 At a national level Healthwatch England has been established as the independent patient champion within the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Healthwatch England will provide advice and guidance to Local Healthwatch and disseminate good practice.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Healthwatch Wolverhampton has been registered with Companies House as a Community Interest Company, it has two current Directors and 10 Board members. All existing LINK community groups and individual members have been asked if they want to move over to be part of Healthwatch Wolverhampton. The Board members consist of ex-LINK Board members who wished to be involved in the new company.
- 3.2 The role of Independent Chair has been appointed to and is Maxine Bygrave, she has extensive knowledge of health and social care services in the city, as well as a wealth of experience in patient and public engagement, and experience of being part of community activity in the city.
- 3.3 The Chair and council officers have run the first of a number of development sessions with the new Board. The next step is to do a skills audit of the Board members, match these against the organisation needs and then seek to recruit new Board members. The Board are also considering outstanding issues from LINK that need resolving and looking at new priorities emerging from local data collection
- 3.4 The official launch of Healthwatch Wolverhampton is arranged for 30 April 2013 in the Mayors Parlour. One hundred guests have been invited from local community groups and key strategic organisations.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Cabinet Resources Panel agreed on 6 January 2013 to grant fund Healthwatch Wolverhampton for a two year period at £0.200 per year. 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.

[MK/19042013/U]

5. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are Human Resource implications. Healthwatch Wolverhampton will be required to employ its own staff to support the organisation. They may choose in the long term to commission business support (Finance, HR, IT support) from an external organisation or to develop expertise from within the organisation. Staff currently employed by WVSC may have the right to TUPE to Local Healthwatch, if it chooses to directly employ its own staff.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are legal implications arising from this report. This includes issues arising from the transfer from LINK to Healthwatch Wolverhampton, e.g. the transfer of intellectual property from LINK to Healthwatch Wolverhampton.

[FD/19042013/F]

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

9. SCHEDULE OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None