

Healthwatch Sheffield Strategic Advisory Group business meeting

Date & Time: Tuesday 2nd September, 10 am – 12 pm

Location: In-person at The Circle

Present: Trish Edney, Charlotte Killea, Eric Watts, Lucy Davies, Liz Kieran

Apologies: Harry Frost, Mark Gamsu, Brendan Warner-Southwell, Mehriye Ahude Bicer, Shirley Kirkland, Tim Furness, Janet Harris

Meeting notes: Mina Clarke

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies Apologies received from Harry Frost, Mark Gamsu, Brendan Warner-Southwell, Mehriye Ahude Bicer, Shirley Kirkland, Tim Furness, Janet Harris
2	Declarations of interest None
3	Matters arising from the previous meeting
	The previous minutes were agreed as a correct record.
4	Updates on future of local Healthwatch
	<p>Lucy Davies provided a verbal update on the current national and local picture regarding the future of local Healthwatch.</p> <p><u>National</u></p> <p>Noted that between meetings, SAG agreed for Healthwatch Sheffield to sign the open letter written by a group of local Healthwatch. This was sent to Wes Streeting and as of now no official response has been received and it has not been picked up by national press. The same group of local Healthwatch are also working on a petition which is currently live. The wording of the petition (similar to the open letter) focuses on the need to retain independent public voice and its importance. Whilst we have already shared and promoted the petition, some Healthwatch are waiting until after the school holidays and parliamentary recess to do so. There have been two key questions regarding the national campaign 1) How much of local Healthwatch time should be invested in this work and 2) how does this work fit within the constraints of our statutory role? The guidance given is that no more than 7 – 10 % of local Healthwatch time should be spent on the national campaign, and campaigning is within the remit of our statutory work as long as it's in the public interest. The advisory group agreed that they were comfortable with this rationale.</p> <p>The group also discussed the potential for creating media about Healthwatch Sheffield to help with the campaign, but ultimately felt this was not something the team has capacity for currently. One of the team members has joined a working group of roughly 30 Healthwatch who meet fortnightly to discuss progress with the national campaign. The working group will look at</p>

	<p>what a future model of independent voice might look like. Healthwatch England are currently working through a redundancy consultation process and expect to be operating with a skeleton staff by Christmas. They have committed to providing support with services that they currently provide for local Healthwatch (e.g., website and smart survey) for as long as possible, but have not provided a definite end date. Recently, a national tender was put out to help identify a partner to help with a system for patient experience on a national level.</p> <p><u>Local</u></p> <p>Currently, our main focus is at a local level. There is the sense that locally it is understood that what is being proposed regarding the future of local Healthwatch has limitations, and that ultimately there is a need for a provision that is a) independent and b) relational. We need to understand how we develop conversations around this into commitment and action to developing a local model. Lucy Davies is currently being supported to contact members of the Health and Wellbeing Board ahead of the September meeting to gain an understanding of what their views and commitment are to developing a local model. The current intention is for Charlotte Killea (SAG member) to also attend the September Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that developing a local model would be a resource-intensive process, and a balance needs to be struck between how much of the work we do before receiving funding for the model. Another question is how a local model would continue independent voice work potentially without statutory functions; there would be a lot of things to consider in terms of both form and function.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy to send Liz the final version of the open letter for sharing
5	<p>Quarterly report – work update</p>
	<p>Lucy Davies provided a brief verbal summary of recent work. SpeakUp grants have restarted after a year's hiatus with a focus on children and young people in line with our priorities. A key area of work for the team is within the Wybourn and Richmond Park area; during August the team hosted a successful community fun day in Richmond Park. Work will be continuing particularly in the Wybourn area and utilising the space at the Pat Midgley community hub. The team has also been present at various summer events i.e., out and about!</p> <p>Lucy Davies, Chief Officer, will be leaving the Healthwatch team at the end of October for a different job. Currently the forward plan is to strengthen existing roles within the team and undergo internal recruitment rather than recruit externally for a new Chief Officer. Future model and strategic conversations will be supported by senior VAS staff.</p>
6	<p>Developments in local health and social care services</p>
	<p>We recently received the report from the joint CQC and Ofsted report for the current SEND provision within Sheffield. A SEND manifesto is currently in the process of being developed following this. It is felt that the provision isn't there for the volume of need, and improvements need to be made to ensure that people's needs are met in mainstream education irrespective of diagnosis or EHC.</p>

	<p>The CQC are currently inspecting adult social care using a new framework, Healthwatch have been interviewed as part of this process and were able to contribute feedback on both people's experiences of care, as well as the experience of the council as partners.</p> <p>There are two consultations underway from the ICB at the moment. One is regarding the decision to standardise the IVF offer across South Yorkshire to one cycle. The second is regarding the current Gluten Free prescribing offer. There was some discussion around how we should respond to the latter, and it was decided that we would look into the work of foodbanks around gluten free provision (including the education and sign posting role that food banks tend to hold) – Lucy and Charlotte would action this.</p> <p>Recently the criteria of non-emergency patient transport was changed to match national criteria within Yorkshire. A staggered approach is being taken to implementation. This is a potential area for us to look at as a local Healthwatch over the next year including pulling together what information we already have as well as completing out and about engagement. There was some discussion around the administrative difficulties in obtaining a free bus pass within South Yorkshire.</p> <p>The Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA) has identified an adequate volume of pharmacies within the area and that enough are open late or at weekends. However, although engagement work with pharmacy users has been suggested as part of the Pharmacy Needs Assessment, it has not been undertaken which means that patient experience is not addressed. Patient experience is an important aspect of service provision to understand especially considering the increasing role that pharmacies are playing within the healthcare system. We intend to submit a response based on what has been shared with us. Drug availability sits outside the remit of the PNA.</p> <p>A brief update was provided in relation to Harold Street Surgery. Following the passing of the primary GP, Primary Care Sheffield were commissioned to look after the surgery. The surgery has now been put out to tender, and the Primary Care Sheffield contract has been extended in order to complete this process. They also recently completed a consultation period.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy to provide Trish with the PNA response template, and Trish with draft a response • Identify the governance structures to understand how the developments in SEND provision are going to be tracked/actioned as well as help us to understand where SpeakUp grants with a SEND focus can be fed into
7	Any other business
	None
8	Date of next meeting and forward plan
	Thursday 23 rd October 10 am – 12 pm at The Circle