

## Advisory Group Position Statement on Principles of Engagement with South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Integrated Care System and Sheffield Accountable Care Partnership

Healthwatch Sheffield is the local, consumer watchdog for health and social care services.

It helps adults, children and young people influence and improve how services are designed and run. It is completely independent and not part of the NHS or Sheffield City Council.

The Statement sets out principles for engaging patients and citizens with these emerging structures.

### Integrated Care System/Accountable Care Partnership

Sheffield Healthwatch is involved with the new arrangements for health and social care in both Sheffield City and in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan region.

The way that these plans are implemented, including organisations working more closely together, new governance and the delivery of different services through the mechanisms of the regional [Integrated Care System](#) and the [Sheffield Accountable Care Partnership](#), is of central concern to Healthwatch Sheffield.

### The Advisory Group supports:

- the idea of the bigger geographical area of South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw for some services, where this is likely to improve quality and service development,
- bringing some services together in specialist centres or community hubs,
- the greater emphasis on collaboration at all levels,
- integration of health and social care based on evidence and good practice,
- building on strengths of communities and citizens.

### Watch points

- A bigger footprint and specialist centres require excellent transport links and a commitment to reaching excluded groups in new and tailored ways.
- Collaboration needs to recognise that health and social care are supported, delivered and enhanced by communities, voice, faith and voluntary organisations and business sectors. They must be included as partners and resourced to be involved.
- Clarity and openness about investment (or disinvestment) especially in relation to social care, prevention, mental health and in primary and community care is necessary at an early stage if engagement with the patients and citizens is to be effective.

### Governance

Governance must align with the NHS Constitution: “patients should be at the heart of everything the NHS does”. Voice organisations, local people and their representatives, should be involved in governance. Governance arrangements need to make it clear where decisions are made, who makes them and how these decisions can be influenced.

### Engagement

Engagement through patient, community and voice organisation representation and robust mechanisms must be at the heart of the ICS/ACP and in every work stream.

Engagement should be at an early stage and throughout processes of decision making. It must be inclusive and address health inequality and seldom heard groups. It should not be confused with communication or information sharing exercises.

### Influence of engagement should be demonstrable

There must be clear ways to ensure views and ideas are responded to at board levels and that these responses are widely communicated.

## **Impacts of service change**

It should be clear what the specific impacts of changes to particular services on patients and citizens are likely to be and how far these can be influenced.

## **What's new?**

### **Engagement**

In September 2018, South Yorkshire Procurement Service invited organisations to apply to work in partnership with Sheffield's Accountable Care Partnership over one year to plan and help deliver public and patient involvement.

Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS) was awarded the contract in October. This means that Healthwatch Sheffield, with support from the wider VAS team, will work closely with the ACP team to ensure that local people's views are considered in efforts to improve experience of health, care and wellbeing in Sheffield.

Healthwatch Sheffield's goal has always been to understand the needs, ideas and experiences of Sheffield's diverse communities, and ensure they are heard by the people making decisions about health and social care. We believe that working closely with the ACP at this early stage will allow us to create numerous opportunities for people with lived experience to influence changes in the way that organisations work together.

Healthwatch Sheffield aims to work in partnership with health and social care organisations as this enables us to more consistently amplify the voices of local people at the right time and in the right place.

### **Our role as a critical friend**

Healthwatch Sheffield's independence is highly valued in this work. Our approach is based on openness and honesty, giving a perspective informed by evidence, and consideration to the local and national policy context within which decisions are made.

Taking on external engagement brings additional resources as well as other benefits, such as strengthening our evidence base, developing relationships and experience within the team. This helps us to deliver our statutory duties more effectively.

However, we have to remain vigilant about the possible ways such work could impact on our independence and ability to monitor or scrutinise organisations.

We know that there is potential for conflicts of interest in decision making about health and social care, and rather than avoid these entirely, Healthwatch Sheffield's Strategic Advisory Group work closely with the staff team, to help us manage them effectively.

Our position statement makes clear the principles by which we engage with the new partnerships (the regional Integrated Care System and Sheffield's Accountable Care Partnership), and our role in supporting the engagement of the ACP will involve sharing positive and negative points of view.

The following organisations are part of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System:

- Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Barnsley CCG
- Bassetlaw CCG
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Doncaster CCG
- Doncaster Children's Services Trust
- East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- NHS England
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Rotherham CCG
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
- Sheffield CCG
- Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

The following organisations form the Sheffield Accountable Care Partnership:

- NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group
- Primary Care Sheffield
- Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Voluntary Action Sheffield