

September 2018

Together for Good

Celebration Event

On Tuesday 26th June we welcomed volunteers, partners and supporters to a special event to launch our Annual Report and our two year strategy, 'Together for Good'. We were pleased to welcome representatives from health and social care - both statutory and voluntary sector, commissioners, local councilors, service users and their families.

The event was hosted by our Chair, Judy Robinson and our key note speaker was the Deputy Director of Healthwatch England, Neil Tester. Neil said "What shines through... is the representation of different communities in Sheffield. Such an effective focus is really heart-warming."

We were pleased to be joined by Sharon Hirshman, a local Deaf resident, who led the workshops that contributed to our 'Not Equal' report and Lee Harker, a valued member of the Test Bed Advisory Group who spoke about the group's engagement work.

If you missed the event, you can read our Annual Report on our website, or phone the office for a hard copy. You can also watch a short video on our website of the highlights of our year, starring our volunteers and local people who have spoken up to improve services.

Our two year strategy was informed by many hours of engagement with local people. Staff and volunteers heard from 543 people about a wide range of concerns. At our celebration event, Healthwatch Sheffield volunteer, Abi Hunter presented the findings of our engagement and the areas that we will focus on over the next two years.

Our strategy sets out the difference we want to make by 2020, and how we will achieve our three aims:

1. Support local people to have their say.
2. Bring voice and influence to existing health and care commissioners and providers as well as emerging local partnerships.
3. Build capability and capacity across local health and care services to effectively involve local people.



#SpeakUp Small Grants

Keep an eye on our website; over the next month we are releasing the reports from local community groups who carried out engagement in their area under our #SpeakUp Small Grant Scheme.

The grants enabled them to run projects that help local people share their experiences of health and care services in Sheffield.

Maternity Mental Health



Healthwatch England want to help inform mental health policy and practice by creating a robust evidence base about people's experiences of mental health care at different stages of life.

The first phase of this research is now underway, focusing on people's experiences of maternity and mental health.

People who are planning to have a baby, expecting a baby and those who have had a child in the past three years are invited to share their experiences through an online survey or by contacting their local Healthwatch. Please visit our website for more information.

Improving Breast Cancer Treatment

A new Yorkshire Cancer Research funded study is inviting women with breast cancer to contribute to focus groups regarding the development of a psychological treatment. The researchers are keen to increase adherence to medication and improve patients' well-being.

The researchers, based at the University of Leeds, will then undertake a small trial to see whether the intervention is effective. Visit our website to find out more.

Dates for your diary

VCF Forum; Continuing Healthcare

11th September, 10am until 12 noon, The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield, S1 4FW.

Health and Wellbeing Board meeting (in public)

27th September, 3pm until 6pm, Town Hall, Sheffield, S1 2HH.

Strategic Advisory Group

Our new Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) is responsible for providing strategic oversight to Healthwatch Sheffield.

They will work closely with the Healthwatch Sheffield staff team and volunteers and ensure the views of the residents of Sheffield are represented in all aspects of Healthwatch Sheffield's work.

Who are the Strategic Advisory Group?



Judy Robinson; Chair of SAG - Retired CEO of Involve Yorkshire & Humber

Margaret Kilner - Chief Officer of Healthwatch Sheffield



Guy Weston - Health Services Manager at SOAR Community Centre

Patricia Edney - Retired GP



James Lock - Founder and Managing Director of Opus Independents Ltd and trustee at Voluntary Action Sheffield

Simon Duffy - Director of the Centre for Welfare Reform and Secretary to the Global Cooperative Citizen Network

