

Chairs Report

Declaration of Interest

To note that I have been appointed to carry out work for Healthwatch England aimed at improving governance within the Healthwatch network. This draws on both my Healthwatch chairing experience and my wider governance experience in housing and education.

Alex Leach

To note that Alex departed on 28th February with warm wishes and a voucher for Up and Running which he thanked us for. He has left a detailed handover pack for his successor.

Chief Officer Appointment

An offer has been made, as agreed by the Board, and I've updated staff. I expect the new Chief Officer to start in about 3 months time. A formal announcement will be made soon.

Interim Arrangements

These are now in place including finance, staffing and management, alongside some additional responsibilities within the staff team. There's a staff update today outlining their work. I'll continue to keep these under review with staff and Board.

Healthwatch in Greater Manchester

There is now real progress on two main strands of activity:

- Draft Strategy
- Collaborative Agreement

The first sets out our collective approach within Greater Manchester over the next 3 years, setting out our intent to promote patient and public voice within the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System, including those who are seldom heard. It also implicitly supports our 'ask' for funding to carry out our role with the ICS successfully.

The second sets out how we collaborate with each other. It replaces a somewhat out of date prior Memorandum of Understanding. It builds on the Quality Assurance Framework which Healthwatches use to ensure they are well governed. It sets out our independence as Healthwatches, and the creation of a Single Point of Access for HW in GM (agreed in principle by both the ICS and ourselves), a Chair and a mechanism for resolving disagreements.

Both are the culmination of a lot of activity over the past few months. I propose that we support both documents and contribute to the on-going discussions later this month aimed at taking these forward.

Chairing arrangements for HW in GM currently lie with Tracy McErlain-Burns, Chair of HW Tameside and will continue until July 2022. She is being supported by the Chair of HW Bury and a Board Member of HW Bolton. They are screening a rather large number of requests for HW involvement in various meetings and initiatives at a GM level.

Meetings attended

Salford CC Quarterly Monitoring meeting 23rd January
Alex Leach meetings 28th January, 4th February, 15th February, 21st February, 25th February
Healthwatch in Greater Manchester 25th February
Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (with J) 2nd March
Chief Officer shortlisting 3rd March
Chief Officer Interviews 11th March
Salford CC Health and Wellbeing Board 15th March
Staff 121's during March

The Northern Care Alliance Partnership Board due on 17th March was cancelled.

There's a separate report on the Scrutiny Committee.

Future meetings

Kings Fund Conference 28th – 31st March
2022/23 Healthwatch in Greater Manchester Work Programme Workshop* 29th March
Healthwatch in Greater Manchester meeting* 31st March
Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 6th April, 4th May and 1st June
GM Population Health 7th April
Healthwatch England Chairs and Board Members 13th April
GM Population Health 21st April, 5th May and 8th June
Salford CC Quarterly Monitoring meeting 28th April
Healthwatch in Greater Manchester 29th April and 24th May
NW Regional Healthwatch meeting 20th May
Northern Care Alliance Partnership Board 16th June

I suggest we discuss attendance at both the March HW in GM meetings.

Phil Morgan
18th March 2022