**Chairs Report – April 2023 Part 1**

**Healthwatch in Greater Manchester**

I’m pleased to report the confirmation of the funding sought for 3 years from the GM ICS for £297K. This has been an extraordinarily convoluted process, involving a recent business case and a proposed further assessment. The funding has been confirmed for the full three years, with a review of progress (not funding as first thought). HW in GM can progress the recruitment of the Chief Operating Officer.

There was agreement that the Chair of HW in GM should be a paid role (£5K) and the draft Job Description will be recirculated for comment before going out to networks to seek interested parties. There are no precedents. It is likely that the Chair will be formally 'placed' within a HW (probably HW Bury) to manage their role and support. I won’t be applying.

Amanda Smith, the new Healthwatch Manchester Chair attended. I'd already met her on-line earlier in the week and Sam and I welcomed her to the family.

We discussed the draft Quality strategy (the GM lead was unable to make the meeting and her cover thought it was a Teams meeting) and a draft response will be circulated for agreement. One item discussed was around the profound financial pressure that the GM ICS is under. We may well hear more about this shortly. We also discussed the ICP draft strategy in February and will return to this soon.

We discussed a draft protocol for handling the press. The key point is that only someone authorised to speak on behalf of the network could do so. The final version will be agreed at the next meeting.

The next meeting will hopefully include someone from the Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation Trust. We will also meet in May with Professor Oliver Shanley, who is leading on one of the reviews of the Trust.

Dates have been circulated for meetings with the Northern Care Alliance.

**Meetings**

Sam Cook 121s – 23rd February and 31st March

Healthwatch Greater Manchester 28th February and 31st March

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel 5th April (separate report from J and I)

Rimpy catch up 9th March

Finance Committee 4th April

**Future meetings**

HW England Chairs and Board Members briefing 13th April

Healthwatch in Greater Manchester meeting 27th April and 26th May (which also includes a separate meeting with Professor Oliver Shanley)

HW North West meeting 19th May

**Healthwatch England project**

For the past year I’ve been working with my colleague Margaret Curtis on a series of workshops and meetings with individual Healthwatches on improving governance. My sessions have included Chairs, Board Members and Appraisals. Part of the legacy of the project will be a series of checklists designed to help Healthwatches ask the right questions. Later this year I propose that we look at both the Chair and Board Member checklists (the appraisal one is based on our current approach). The project has been well received and has now ended.

**Newton with Clifton Parish Council**

I have stood for re-election to Newton with Clifton Parish Council. The election was uncontested and I will be re-elected on 4th May for a further four years.

Phil Morgan

5th April 2023