

HW Salford Chair Part 1

HW in GM

Pleased to report that following a presentation by Healthwatch in GM colleagues to the Integrated Care Board, they agreed in principle to include funding for a resource at a Greater Manchester level in their budget discussions. This is very welcome although it would be useful to gain enough assurance to be able to plan for the next financial year.

Also pleased to report that HW in GM is now being given more attention around both the ICS preparation and with Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust Foundation. Our HW in GM February meeting should include Zulfi Jiva presenting the draft ICP Strategy for discussion. Our HW in GM March meeting will include Sian Wimbury and Claire Carson to discuss the current situation at the Trust.

The current Chair, Tracy McErlain-Burns, who has done so much to ensure that progress has been made at a Greater Manchester level, is standing down as HW in GM Chair. She has asked all HW Chairs about interest in replacing her.

Northern Care Alliance

I'm pleased to report that my efforts on behalf of all Healthwatches covered by the Alliance resulted in a meeting where we met the Heather Caudle, Chief Nursing Officer along with colleagues from Communications and Transactions. Heather outlined the CQC report (shared by Sam) which resulted in the "requirements improvement" rating for the Alliance. The unannounced visit had been triggered by concerns following the merger and highlighted 120 recommendations. The Alliance are currently on an improvement journey underpinned by an Action Plan with 81 actions to complete. The Alliance had instigated a mock inspection earlier in 2022 and were aware of much of the areas subsequently highlighted in the CQC report. There remain some challenges around leadership and culture which are also being addressed.

We then discussed ways in which the Healthwatches could help, particularly with engaging with communities. This was welcomed and we will want to continue this discussion.

We also discussed plans for clinical disaggregation (rationalising services) following the change of North Manchester Hospital moving from the Alliance to Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust. This did include travel analysis (which Healthwatch in GM have previously insisted upon) and will be shared with the local Councils Health Scrutiny Panels.

For future meetings we agreed that we would continue to receive updates on the CQC inspection action plan, issues raised by the NCA and by Healthwatches, with information being shared in advance to allow us to focus on discussing issues rather than gaining understanding.

Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust

Along with colleague Healthwatches we have started to get some of the information we have requested of the Trust following the aftermath following the Edenfield programme and the subsequent downgrade by NHS England.

Meetings attended

- Catch up with Sam – 21st December, 25th January
- HWE Chairs and Board Members meeting 26th January
- University of Salford Board Member recruitment 26th January
- Healthwatch North West meeting 27th January
- Business Planning meeting 30th January
- Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel 1st February
- NCA Healthwatch meeting 7th February
- Finance Committee 7th February
- Quarter 3 monitoring meeting with Lauren Fairey, Salford CC Commissioner 9th February

Future meetings

- Healthwatch in GM meeting 28th February and 31st March
- Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel 1st March
- Catch up with Sam tba

Vice Chair

I'm grateful to Rimpby for agreeing the minutes of the last meeting when I was on holiday, and being prepared to be available if needed during that time.

HW England Governance

This work on behalf of Healthwatch England will finish at the end of March. It has involved running sessions on Chairs, Boards and Appraisals as well as bespoke session for Healthwatch Boards and Chairs. There will be some legacy following these sessions. This will include the forms we use for Board and Chair appraisals as an illustrative example for use in appraisals. This is welcome recognition of Healthwatch Salford by Healthwatch England.

Phil Morgan
10th February 2023