**Chairs Report Part 1**

**Healthwatch Salford Tender**

Subject to the paper submitted to the Procurement Board being agreed this is an excellent outcome. Its shows the value of the work of the team over the past few years, and validates the approach adopted by Sam, including seeking external support.

**HW in Greater Manchester**

We now have a Chair in place – Heather Etheridge, a Chief Officer Danielle Ruane and an Administrator (about to start) Ike Okewode.

There are two proposed projects at a GM level – CAMMHS and Menopause. The first project is more advanced and being led by Healthwatch Trafford. Both will draw on existing projects by individual Healthwatches and will be an opportunity for (paid) one-off work on our own patches.

There are also moves to create a co-ordinated approach to reporting at a GM level. It’s been agreed that this should be quarterly rather than monthly, and will be considered further at a HW GM Strategy Day in the New Year. However, there are different approaches within each HW, and a desire to avoid two inconsistent sets of reporting. Sam’s also picked up on the reporting to HW England, which we do consistently.

Both the progress and tensions resulting from our approach will be part of the issues I expect to be discussed at the session on 13th December on Future Sustainability of Healthwatches. This is one of 5 sessions set up by HW England looking at the future configuration of HWs locally, and in particular whether they should operate and be funded at an ICS rather than a Local Authority level.

**Greater Manchester ICS and Funding**

Currently GM ICS is running a deficit of £186m, £165m worse than expected. This includes losses at the Manchester Foundation Trust and Northern Care Alliance both of £37m, an NHS deficit of £20m, and a failure to realise any of the £62m efficiency savings. There are no validated plans for the efficiency savings. This will result in difficult decisions to resolve the situation for this year, and the forthcoming viability of the NHS in Greater Manchester in future years. There is a balance between being aware of the scale of the problem and being positive about how this can be addressed.

**Northern Care Alliance**

I attended the most recent Partnership Board meeting (and was the sole Healthwatch rep present). Their CQC Improvement Plan has made some progress with 53/79 actions now completed. When all actions have been finished this will convert into Business as Usual. There is collaboration on the Communications Strategy and the Translation and Interpretation Policy. They are also looking to implement an Improvement Plan following a critical review of their PALS and Complaints service. There is a need to improve the Partnership Board meetings, and I awaiting details of how this will happen.

Services at Salford Royal were also mentioned at the Salford Health and Adult Scrutiny Panel meeting, with the Chair referencing her own recent (bad) experiences. This will be part of the agenda for the February meeting.

**GM Mental Health Trust**

The Trust is making slow progress on its recovery plan with 26 out of 44 indicators showing red on progress, and 8 of those indicators getting worse. Bed blocking and filling vacancies with agency staff are of particular concern, although national in scale. The Shanley and NHS England Investigation reports are due in January.

They have agreed, again, to look at how they can help raise the Healthwatch profile (which includes other Healthwatches too). They are aware that we will be visiting Woodlands in the New Year ahead of an Enter and View.

**Meetings**

9th August – Independent Examination Clearance meeting

10th August – Healthwatch Q1 Performance meeting with Salford CC

22nd August – Link session with Ali Macleod

24th August – Locality Board (for Sam)

25th August - Healthwatch in Greater Manchester

6th September – Salford Health and Adult Scrutiny Panel

6th September - GM Mental Health Trust Healthwatch meeting

14th September – Catch up with Sam

18th September – Catch up with Danielle Ruane

19th September – Healthwatch National Leadership Conference

21st September – Northern Care Alliance Partnership Board

28th September – Volunteer post interviews (1)

29th September – North West Healthwatch meeting

29th September – Healthwatch in Greater Manchester

2nd October – Catch up with Yen

3rd October – Finance Committee

4th October - Salford Health and Adult Scrutiny Panel

17th October – Healthwatch Salford AGM

20th October – Catch up with Sam

23rd October – Catch up with Nisa

25th October – Healthwatch England Quarterly meeting

13th November – catch up with Lara Mills

14th November - Healthwatch Q2 Performance meeting with Salford CC

16th November – Volunteer post Interviews (2)

1st December – Healthwatch Greater Manchester

5th December – GM Mental Health Trust Healthwatch meeting

5th December – Finance Committee meeting

5th December – catch up with Rimpy

6th December - Salford Health and Adult Scrutiny Panel

**Forthcoming**

13th December – Future Sustainability of Healthwatch

14th December – Volunteers lunch

26th January - HW in GM

**Future apologies**

12th January – unable to make HW in GM

7th February – unable to make Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee

**Apologies given**

13th October – Heather Etheridge (she also subsequently cancelled as well)

1st November - Salford Health and Adult Scrutiny Panel

**Annual General Meeting**

Thanks to all those who attended the Annual General Meeting. This was a positive and constructive session and big thanks to Hilaria as our speaker. Thanks also to our Independent Examiner for the accounts, and Sam for her work in bringing this in on time.

Phil Morgan

6th December 2023