

Chief Officer's report part 1

29th July 2025

Team

We continue to meet in person on a monthly basis for our team meeting, with an informal catch up scheduled for the hour prior. On 22nd May we had our summer away day – we did an escape room and managed to escape! This was followed by lunch and with the emphasis on wellbeing, everyone had the rest of the day to do as they wished.

Health and Social Care in Salford

We contributed to the development and analysis of the PNA (Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment) data. I challenged the recommendations suggested and have asked for additional work on pharmacy accessibility to be looked at based on the data provided.

Health and Wellbeing Board meetings continue to be paused, whilst the interim director of public health undertakes a review.

Included with papers is the ICPC briefing note for May's meeting. June's meeting took the form of a workshop on how we want the system in Salford to look based on the NHS changes (pre 10 Year Plan announcement) – I am awaiting notes from this.

At July's ICPC meeting (25th July), I had an agenda slot allocated a while ago, so I used it to share our annual report and work plan. I made sure this was the main focus of my presentation. However, the recent announcements in the news were inevitably discussed. There was overwhelming support around the table from everyone in attendance (no exaggeration) for Healthwatch Salford and the work we do - both in terms of the quality, volume (value for money) and the manner in which we do it. We were also complimented on our professionalism for the way we have conducted ourselves since the announcements in the news. It was unanimous that Salford needs an independent organisation for this work.

Alison Page continues to be a vocal supporter of Healthwatch and pushed the committee for a letter of support for Healthwatch Salford. It was agreed that a discussion would be taken outside of the meeting to move this forward.

There is support from committee members to get Salford Council to commit to continuing our contract (as already agreed) and funding for an independent voice of Salford people – regardless of our name. This will obviously have to be picked up by our commissioners, but I feel that should be the ask from us and our supporters – and sooner rather than later.



Ingleside Birthing Centre was discussed again; there are still no plans in place for births to take place there – mainly due to staffing issues. Rooms there are being used for other purposes, although not all, some are empty. Maternity Neonatal Voices Partnership now have an engagement officer for Salford so they can start to capture data from Salford women. Ali is already in contact with the MNVP already and looking to make contact with this engagement officer – as we've had concerns in the past about how they capture the experiences of Salford women. I'm looking into organising a visit there for anyone interested as I've never been and feel I would find it helpful to go. Councilors continue to push for it to be reopened as a birthing centre, so I feel it's going to be a hot topic over the coming months.

HW in GM Network update

The network continues to collaborate and meet regularly. With an added emphasis of supporting each other during this difficult time.

The network has recently published reports on Menopause and UEC (Urgent and Extra Care).

The network will continue to work together on shared priorities, and we have a structure to capture themed feedback across GM resulting in a report.

The financial future of the network is still not known.

Social Value

As part of our contract, I report on the social value we deliver via the 'Social Value Portal' – on online facility contracted by the council that we must pay for.

From April 2024 (the start of our new contract) to June 2025, by committing too and evidencing agreed TOMs (themes, outcomes and measures), we have delivered £93,883.02 in social value. This is reported into the council via the Social Value Portal.

Our volunteering hours aren't included in that, as volunteering is part of our contract, so we can't use that as a TOM. With that in mind, during April 2024 to March 2025, we delivered 203 hours of volunteering. If we multiply that by the real living wage (£12.60 and hour), that brings in an additional £2557.80 of social value in Salford.

