

Healthwatch Northamptonshire Board Meeting – 25 April 2019

UPDATE OF THE CHAIR

A diary of my commitments since the last board meeting is appended to this report.

NENE AND CORBY CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS

I attend all Board meetings when possible but have given apologies for one meeting which clashed with World Social Work Day when I was chairing a conference in London. If I am not able to attend, a staff member usually attends as an observer.

Nene and Corby CCGs have had a common infrastructure including a shared Chief Executive for some time. The Boards are now meeting 'in common' which has reduced the number of meetings and duplication of information. At the recent meeting the CCG reported on the successful completion of the major commissioning agreements (contracts) with the main service providers (NGH, KGH, NHFT). It was reported that these had not achieved some of the desired changes. I asked for a statement on the impact of these contracts on the experience of members of the public which I was informed would be prepared.

UNITARY STATUS

There has been no formal progress on the proposed reorganisation. A formal order has to be laid in Parliament for this to proceed. It is not clear when this will happen.

West Northamptonshire (Northampton, Daventry, South Northants and NCC) has formed a shadow Joint Committee of elected members from the four councils. This met in public on 26 March. I attended as an observer. North Northants has decided not to form a joint committee until the formal decision has been taken by Parliament. Meanwhile members and officers are working on the assumption that the plans will be implemented, as is evident in the report of the Director of Public Health published in April. HWN has also participated in some preparatory seminars about the approaches to be adopted by the new unitaries. As a result of those meetings, I raised a question in the public session of the HWBB about whether the new bodies had formally recognised the importance of making a statement of commitment to respecting equal opportunities for all minorities as a core element of the provision of health and social care, as is stated explicitly in the NHS Constitution. I plan to accept the advice to raise this as a formal question at the next meeting of the West Northants Joint Committee.

The continued uncertainty about the reorganisation plans is not helpful to joint working but is being managed in a constructive way by all partners.

The position of Healthwatch Northamptonshire has so far not been discussed in the reorganisation plans.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

There continues to be positive evidence of improved partnership working between the leaders of the key statutory bodies involved in delivering health and social care in the context of the formal meetings attended by HWN representatives. However the long history of tensions in partnership working will take time to be overcome throughout each organisation. The Health and Wellbeing Board and Health and Care Partnership (STP) are generally well attended but concrete evidence of improvement takes time to be identified. The recent HWBB agreed to develop a common financial strategy across all organisations and there is positive support for a common approach to data collection and management. It was agreed that the annual report of the Director of Public Health should form the common basis for the next stage of development.

Performance challenges remain in each of the general hospital services providers, although the KGH oversight board has charted steady improvements in several areas.

The Chief Executive of KGH has asked to meet with the HWN Board to discuss developments in that hospital and a mutually suitable date has been identified.

YOUNG HEALTHWATCH

The continued success of YHWN is a source of pride for us all. There was a very strong turnout from agencies and supporters at the launch of the new YHWN and KGH film.

MEDIA

There has been less media activity this quarter. There was coverage of my comments at the HWBB expressing concern about child safeguarding arrangements in the county. We are hoping for strong coverage of our engagement event on 2 May 2019.

COUNTY HEALTH AND CARE EVENT/WEEK

There has been considerable interest in the idea of a week of activities to highlight health and social care provision across the county, to include input from HWN on the need to strengthen the voice of the public in future plans. This depends on resources being provided by the major organisations with support from NHCP. Discussions are continuing but the time available for planning anything significant is now evaporating.

HEALTHWATCH ENGLAND

HWN continues to play our role in the regional structures of HWE but hopes of some joint working with other local Healthwatch around the country facing similar challenges have not borne fruit.

David N Jones

Chair, Healthwatch Northamptonshire

24 April 2019

**COMMITMENTS OF THE CHAIR
SINCE THE JANUARY 2019 BOARD MEETING**

January

- 30 Local government reorganisation consultation
- 31 HWN staff

February

- 6 Nene CCG Chair & Chief Executive
- 7 Director of Public Health & NCC staff about workplan and survey of wellbeing fora
- 18 Chief Constable (welcome meeting)
- 19 HWN office
- 21 Webinar on IT solutions
- 26 Corby CCG Board
- 28 HWN Planning Group

March

- 5 HWE Regional Meeting Leicester
- 7 NHCP Chair interview panel – did not appoint being readvertised
- 13 Baptist Ministers about local government reorganisation
- 15 CiC Chair & Chair of Rutland HW and Chief Exec
- 22 KGH Oversight meeting (improvement board)
- 26 NHCP Development session including HWN input
- 26 West Northants shadow joint committee – Northampton Town Hall

April

- 8 NHFT Director of Communications
- 9 NGH Director of Nursing (welcome meeting)
- 11 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, followed by discussion with Chair of NGH & KGH
- 12 HWN office meeting – workplan, board agendas, etc
- 16 Young Healthwatch film launch – Cineworld
- 16 Nene and Corby CCGS – first joint meeting 'in common'
- 25 Healthwatch Northants Board

In addition 15-20 hours of emails and other administration every month.

24 April 2019