

Agenda Item 8.

Healthwatch Northamptonshire Board Meeting – 10 July 2019 UPDATE OF THE CHAIR

Healthwatch Northamptonshire continues to play an active role in the county health and social care environment with a visible presence at events and online and several members active in formal committees, working groups and local Fora.

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 feed through each organisation. The Health and Wellbeing Board and Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership (STP) are generally well attended but concrete evidence of improvement takes time to emerge. 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 and the recent CQC inspection documented improvements in several areas whilst recognising the need for continued, significant areas for further improvement.

NENE AND CORBY CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS

Nene and Corby CCGs now operate with a common infrastructure including a shared Chief Executive. The Boards meet 'in common' which has reduced the number of meetings and duplication of information.

I attended the meeting on 18 June in Corby. Issues discussed and taken forward included

- Implementation of the new Primary Care Networks which come into effect on 1 July. All GP practices are in a PCN. They are based on GP networks rather than geography so in some cases there are overlapping boundaries. The new PCNs have a responsibility under the new contract to employ certain specialist staff, such as advisers on social prescribing.
- NHS Long Term Plan
- Annual quality and safeguarding report – continued concerns about safeguarding for children and adults

- Updates on 0-19 contracts, Business Planning and budgeting, CCG transition
- Annual reports and accounts of the two CCGs
- Director of Public Health Annual Report – I mentioned HWN concern about the need for the new unitary authorities to include recognition of equal opportunities and the implications of respect for diversity, the importance of which is evident in this annual report.

A statement on the impact on the experience of members of the public of the successful completion of the major commissioning agreements (contracts) with the main service providers (NGH, KGH, NHFT) has been published on the website, as I requested at the previous meeting.

The CCG provided additional resources to support the engagement event on the NHS Long Term Plan which was held in Northampton on 2 May. A report on the event is included elsewhere on the agenda.

UNITARY STATUS

It has been announced that the two new unitary authorities will come into being in 2021. The general view seems to be that this will enable the new authorities to undertake more rigorous planning and preparation.

West Northamptonshire (Northampton, Daventry, South Northants and NCC) has formed a shadow Joint Committee of elected members from the four councils. This met for the second time in public on 5 June. I attended as an observer and I raised a question in the public session, on behalf of HWN, 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. We received a detailed written response and, on the proposal of the Leader of the County Council, the Committee agreed to keep this issue under consideration. The other question raised related to relationships with and funding of the voluntary sector and it was also agreed that this would be kept under active review by the Committee. The same question will be submitted to the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee which has now been formed.

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

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

I have attended all Board meetings and development days since my appointment and make an active contribution. The Board is well attended by senior managers of the relevant organisations and political representatives. There is evidence of more open joint working. The recent meeting agreed that the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health should be the basis for setting priorities for the coming period and that there would be closer joint working on budget setting. The recent meeting received the annual report from the Local

Safeguarding Children Board, which identified concerns about the effectiveness of safeguarding in the county. My comments on the report were quoted in the local paper.

The report on the work of the local Health and Wellbeing Fora published by HWN has been well received and is informing discussions about their future role in the new unitary environment.

MEDIA

I have done interviews with ITV News and BBC Radio Northampton and provided a briefing for a Guardian leader writer. I have been quoted in local papers from time to time.

David N Jones

Chair, Healthwatch Northamptonshire

3 July 2019

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

April

25 Healthwatch Northamptonshire Board meeting

May

2 NHA Long Term Plan engagement event, Northampton

9 KGH Oversight meeting (improvement board)

16 HWN Planning Group

30 Health and Wellbeing Board Development workshop

June

3 Meetings with staff at HWN office

5 Volunteer Fair, Northampton Market Square – attended for 1 hour and assisted staff

5 ITV interview on serious case reviews

5 West Northants shadow joint committee – Towcester Town Hall

8 Northampton Carnival – assisted at stand for c3 hours

18 St Andrews Enter and View training

18 Nene and Corby CCGS – joint meeting 'in common' – Corby

July

1 Radio Northampton interview – adult social care and health

3 Meetings with staff at HWN office

3 Meeting with Children's Commissioner

9 Healthwatch England media training

10 BBC Radio 4 & Northampton interview – adult social care

10 HWN Board and AGM

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

3 July 2019