

Virtual Healthwatch Northamptonshire Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 8 July 2020 10.00 - 11.30 a.m.

Present: Dr David Jones, Sheila White, Rashmi Shah, Susan Hills, Simon Barter, John Rawlings, Morcea Walker, Sandra Bell, Roger Knight, Helen Statham, Vikki Lynes, Caroline Gooch, Judith Glashen, Ric Barnard,

In attendance: Kate Holt, Esther Stimpson, Katie Bayliss, Jo Spenceley, Julie Curtis

Presenter: Ian Curryer, Chair, Northamptonshire County Council Children’s Trust

Apologies Received: Dora Shergold, Jill Spiby

Item No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions:</p> <p>The Chair, Dr David Jones welcomed all to this virtual meeting and gave a brief introduction about Ian Curryer and his role and asked the Board Members to raise the same/similar questions to Ian as they had to Andrew Christie, The Commissioner for Childrens’ Services at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) as at the last Board Meeting 14/5/20. All agreed.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting 14.05.2020</p> <p>The minutes of this meeting were unanimously agreed by all of the Board Members to be accurate.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Sandra asked whether Kate had sent out the mission statement from Russell Rolph from Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire. Kate reported that she had done this.</p>	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Appointment of New Healthwatch Northamptonshire Board Member:</p> <p>Kate reported that when David Tredrea stepped down as a Board member it had created a vacancy.</p> <p>Sheila White is currently attending meetings regarding the new Accident and Emergency Hub at Kettering General Hospital (KGH) which is important for the HWN Board to keep up to date with to ensure openness and transparency and proper public consultation and engagement. Kate had therefore approached Sheila, who is a very experienced volunteer and asked if she would like to apply for the Board position, Sheila agreed.</p> <p>Sheila gave a brief history of her experience and the Board unanimously agreed for Sheila to become a Board member.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Presentation by Ian Curryer, Chair, Northamptonshire County Council Children’s Trust:</p> <p>Ian had been invited to this meeting to give an update on the proposed new Children’s Trust for Northamptonshire.</p> <p>David asked the Board to introduce themselves to Ian, each giving their individual interests in health and social care.</p> <p>Ian then gave a brief description of his previous working background to the group. He is a Secretary of State appointment and will be a Secretary of State representative once the Children’s Trust is set up.</p> <p>Ian reported there have been different dates for the setup of the Children’s Trust but the statutory direction is now somewhere between November 2020 and 1 April 2021. This is a Government intervention and the Statutory Declaration sets this out clearly. Not all of the current Children’s Services will move into the Trust. Education services will stay with Northamptonshire County Council (NCC). The Director of Children’s Services will remain outside the Trust and sit within the new Unitary authorities. The responsibility to engage partners still lies with the Northamptonshire County Council and alongside their statutory responsibility. Ian reported that in the last two months he had been meeting partners and assembling the Board.</p> <p>Ian reported that Healthwatch Northamptonshire cannot be on the Trust Board as it will be an independent company. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department for Education (DFE) and Northamptonshire County Council. The Board is now starting to meet as a company implementation oversight Board.</p>	

Ian reported the current structure of the Board is:

Chair - Ian Curryer

Four independent Board Members - Hilary Daniels, Colin Cross, John O'Brien and Claire Chamberlain.

There will be additional council nominees who have not been appointed yet and neither has the Chief Executive Finance Director. The interim Chief Executive, James Thomas has now been replaced by Clive Heaphy until a permanent chief executive is appointed.

Ian reported they are at the start of an ambitious 20-week project plan programme. This model is preferred by the DFE because it gives a fresh start to the service.

Ian is keen to make savings so these savings can be reinvested where the Trust needs them. More money needs to be put into Prevention and Early Help to stop children coming into care.

They need to reduce costs in placements and agency staff and to provide stability for children.

The vision for the Children's Trust needs to be clear. They have to put the families and children and young people at the heart of what they do and also to have a high culture model of professional practice.

Ian reported they want to work with other key providers to get an integrated system. They would welcome Healthwatch Northamptonshire to form a small group to help with the Integrated Care Partnership and also to help with the two Unitaries going forward.

Rashmi asked Ian a question about special needs and customer involvement/engagement with the community?

Ian replied saying there will be limited ability with regards to the companies they can sub-contract and it will be NCC who enter into the commissioning activity to put partnerships in place and will set up a stakeholder group forum to work with them. Accountability and engagement will remain the responsibility of NCC.

Judith's question was regarding the issues with the two Unitaries around ensuring diversity and equality and how will the Trust Board ensure there is diversity and inclusion?

Ian replied that this was in their Values and Vision document. They will have limited available posts due to having to TUPE staff across to the Trust but are developing their strategies to encourage and recruit diverse people going forward.

	<p>Helen said to Ian that she was happy he mentioned Early Help and asked in the short term how are they going to respond to demand? She also asked what relationship they have with Public Health?</p> <p>Ian replied that it will be a challenge to start with and they will have to set out their practice model and set up a framework with schools and thinks that this will be a couple of year's work ahead of them.</p> <p>Ian said co-location and integration with health is a good way to address this and they have already spoken to the two Unitaries and the police about this.</p> <p>Morcea spoke about equality, Looked after Children and the reach to these and asked if the Board had any additional questions for Ian, they should send to Kate who would then forward on to Ian. She asked if Ian would be happy to attend a Planning Group Meeting later in the year, which he agreed to.</p> <p>Julie to send invitation to Ian for the meeting being held on the 17 September 2020. Ian said to include the meeting invitation to Cathy Hadley and Clive Heaphy also.</p> <p>David and the Board gave thanks to Ian for his time and attendance at the meeting.</p>	<p>ALL/KH</p> <p>JC</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>7.</p>	<p>External Updates:</p> <p>General Updates:</p> <p>These two items on the agenda did not take place due Russell Rolph not attending the meeting and also time restraints.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Sandra expressed concern that she felt this meeting was very rushed and that the time given was not enough. David agreed and mentioned that Ian had spoken for longer than was originally planned so the complete agenda could not be finished.</p> <p>It was agreed by all that the Board members should meet again soon before September and Kate and Julie to discuss and finalise a date and send out details of this as soon as possible.</p> <p>Rashmi agreed with Sandra's comment but did express his thanks to all for their support and kind words following the sad death of his mother.</p>	<p>KH/JC</p>

	The meeting then closed.	
	Date of Next Virtual HWN Board Meeting: 30th July 2020 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	

Signed as being a true record of the meeting:



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Dr David N Jones
(Healthwatch Northamptonshire Chair)

Dated: 30 July 2020
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