

Chair's Report

Purpose

1. This report sets out public activities carried out by the Chair since the last Board meeting. Directors representative activities are maintained in a strategic engagement log.

Key issues

2. Appendix 1 lists the Chair's external meetings from 1 May to 30th June 2018.
3. Section 5-9 updates on recent Care Quality Commission publications for our area and identifies concerns with the system finances and STP leadership.
4. Recent engagement with mental health services and service users by one of our Directors is highlighted.

Action required by the Board

5. The Board is asked to:
 - Note the report.

Author

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18th July 2018

Quality of Care and other local issues

6. Last month this report reviewed the Care Quality Commission (CQC) ratings of all our local health and care providers.
7. Since then, in June, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT) has maintained its overall 'Good' rating. The report noted a number of areas of outstanding practice and some areas for improvement.

Jonathan Wells is our Director who has a special interest in mental health, and who links closely with CPFT and the local authorities' adult care services.

Through his other roles as co-ordinator of Rethink Carer Support and chair of the SUN Network for service users he is well embedded in the mental health system.

In June Jonathan contributed to the mental health voluntary sector forum and the Carers Conference at Peterborough, organised by the Carers Trust. As part of the STP, he is a member of the Crisis Carer Concordat Board and the Community Mental Health Board, representing the public. These groups report to the Mental Health Communities Group of which he is vice-chair.

Jonathan organises quarterly reports to commissioners about the mental health service users' experience (through SUN) and the carer experience (through Rethink). In early July he met mental health commissioners for the quarterly public experience meeting.

Areas of concern continue to include the need for better access to mental health services in line with NICE guidance, with considerable numbers of people still unable to get the help they desperately need.

8. In July, the East of England Ambulance Services Trust (EEAST) received an overall rating of 'Requires improvement', although it was outstanding for caring. Funding has been announced to support our ambulance services following a review by NHS England earlier this year. Suffolk Healthwatch represents us on performance matters for the Trust, although we maintain good links locally and support the progress of the STP bid to develop the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough falls response services.

The health of our system's finances

9. There is concern locally regarding the financial position of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CPCCG) and the impact this is having on health care for local people. As reported widely, CPCCG declared a deficit of £42m at the end of 2017/18.

10. Recovery measures will undoubtedly reduce investment in the local health system and slower decision-making whilst the CCG governance processes are under scrutiny. Whilst Healthwatch is not primarily a financial commentator, it is the potential impacts on patient safety, and more broadly the track record and future ability of health service commissioners and providers to engage the public and patients that are our main concerns. We are therefore pleased to welcome Jan Thomas the new CCG Chief Officer to our AGM to explain and support our understanding of the situation and a positive role for Healthwatch.

STP leadership

11. The STP has appointed Dr Mike More, Chair of CUH as interim Chair. The Chief Officer of the CCG will not also fulfil the STP Accountable Officer role for the foreseeable future. Dr More has offered to speak at the September Healthwatch Board meeting about STP developments, including the role of public and patient participation.

12. Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been invited to attend meetings of both the North and South STP Alliance Delivery Groups.

Appendix 1- Meetings attended by the Chair 1st May to 30th June 2018

Meeting	Purpose	Date
NWAFT Governing Body	Member	08/05
Ageing Well Strategy Board	Participant	15/05
Lord Lieutenancy Awards	Participant	16/05
STP Care Advisory Group	Member	17/05
Joint Safeguarding Partnership Executive Group	Member	21/5
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Boards' joint meeting	Member	31/05
East of England Healthwatch Network meeting	Member	07/06
STP Clinical Community meeting	Member	14/06
Mike More, Chair CUH (telephone meeting)	Chair to Chair	22/06

Plus 1-1 meetings with two Healthwatch directors