

Chair's Report

Purpose

1. This report sets out public activities carried out by the Chair since the last Board meeting, and comments on aspects of the local health and care system.

Key issues

2. Appendix 1 lists the Chair's external meetings from 1 Sept to 31 Oct 2020. Directors representative activities are maintained in a strategic engagement log. I am very grateful for the role of directors in the continued success of the Healthwatch Forums, and for maintaining links with organisations and working groups.
3. It's time to be honest. A resurgence of Covid-19 and winter pressures on NHS and social care may hamper the recovery of services, just as the size of unmet need has become apparent. We should welcome some of the themes being promoted during the recovery as echoing our own findings about the needs of local people. The role of the Healthwatch network and our local Healthwatch is as important as ever.

Action required by the Board

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

Author

Val Moore, Chair
11th November 2020

Using our learning in the face of a second lockdown

5. Our 'Your care during Covid' publication¹ has set out how changes to health and care services have affected people locally, and highlighted lessons for all.
6. This provides a strong evidence base for involving local people in the recovery of services following unprecedented disruption. The challenges will be even greater given usual winter pressures and the recent rise in people requiring hospital care for Covid-19 as well as the inevitable negative impacts of a second lockdown.
7. Through our publication and in meetings Sandie Smith and I have been proud to pass on peoples thanks to health and care staff. We are encouraged to hear that our health services have resumed many of the paused services, that care homes are more supported, and the system partners are in a better place to respond together.
8. The pressures however seem very real and will have impacts for patients and the public. Themes in the regional communication to the NHS (NHSE and NHSI, 26th October) include messages that I welcome:
 - Future proposals to close services should be considered across the system to secure mutual aid where possible
 - Common approaches for prioritisation on the basis of need and not just how long you wait
 - Monitoring for early signs of deterioration, access to GP services including flu vaccinations
 - Particular attention to health inequalities, and for people with learning disabilities and with autism and children and families needing care
 - Better information and communications for users of services, including better conversations about future care decisions
 - Whilst there are challenges ahead, people are still being encouraged to come forward if they are ill or concerned about their health or care.
9. Some of us have attended the virtual Healthwatch England conference last week. I'm very proud of the role Healthwatch has played to bring people's experiences to the attention of service commissioners and providers during these difficult times. Many of the national messages above have been influenced by the strength and depth of feedback from the national Healthwatch network, including our own 'Your care during Covid' report.

¹ <https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/report/2020-10-22/report-shines-light-covid-health-and-care-struggles>

Appendix 1 - External meetings attended by the Chair 1st Sept to 31st Oct 2020

Meeting	Purpose	Date
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Policies Forum	Lay member	8/9
Wendi Ogle-Welbourn	One to one	8/9
STP Clinical Communities Forum	Member	10/9
Urgent Treatment Centre public consultation meeting	Chair	10/9
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Core Joint Health and Wellbeing Board	Member	11/9
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Engagement Group	Member	11/9
C&PCCG AGM	Observer	15/9
Integrated Commissioning Board, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Independent Chair	17/9
Mary Elford, Chair Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust	Chair to Chair	20/9
STP Ethics Committee meeting	Vice Chair	23/9
Interview in prep for NWAFT Well Lead CQC inspection	Participant	25/9
C&PCCG Health Inequalities Board	Member	28/9
Integrated Urgent Care clinical advisory group	Member	30/9
Joint Prescribing Group for C&PCCG	Lay member	1/10
C&PCCG quarterly update with Healthwatch	Participant	2/10
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Engagement Group	Member	5/10
STP Clinical Communities Forum	Member	8/10
Daniel Zeichner, MP update with Healthwatch	Briefing	9/10
STP Ethics Committee meeting	Vice Chair	14/10
C&PCCG Health Inequalities Board	Member	19/10
Integrated Commissioning Board, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough planning meeting	Independent Chair	22/10

Plus

Healthwatch Board in public (16/9)

Meeting with Director x 1

Healthwatch Volunteers meeting (22/10)

Management team meetings/ survey planning x 5