

Chair's Report

Purpose

1. This is my second report as Chair of Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and sets out the external activities I have undertaken during November and December 2020 and up to 17th January 2021. In addition, I have attended a number of Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough meetings.

Key issues

2. I have attended several meetings with “system” leaders to assist building relationships and hear the challenges their organisations face. It has also provided me with the opportunity to inform them of the issues that have been brought to our attention and stress that we are here to help. In all cases we have discussed engagement and the emerging Integrated Care System (ICS).
3. I have attended a range of meetings (both private and public) as part of the process of setting up the ICS. Much of my time has been spent in this area of activity and I believe it is time well spent. There is now an opportunity to join up a fragmented system that for a long time has been the cause of frustration for many users. It is also an opportunity to set strategic priorities for health and social care and work together to achieve them. This also provides a real opportunity to address health inequalities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
4. These meetings bring together system leaders to build a framework for strategy development, test ambition and discuss governance. There are indications that a fully integrated Integrated Care Partnership with the Health and Wellbeing Boards could be achieved. I have encouraged this. In short, I have advocated for governance arrangements to be clear, simple and not duplicative. Local accountability and transparency are important. We have had the opportunity to review the draft constitution and comment on it and some of the points we raised have been included in a second draft.
5. I think it is fair to say nothing yet is “carved in tablets of stone” and the Government have moved timetable for implementation back to July. In my view, shared by the Chair Designate of the Integrated Care Board (ICB), this additional time is valuable to deal with many outstanding issues including most importantly engagement. At every opportunity I press the case for a major shift in culture from a paternalistic approach to one where the user is at the centre of the decision making process. If co production is the key, then it should flow from top to bottom of the new ICS.

6. On the question of our Healthwatch position in the new structure I am confident that we will have a place of influence for representing our constituency. Sir Robert Francis (Chair, Healthwatch England) continues to press for local Healthwatch to have a non-voting seat on the ICB. If government were to agree this that would make things simpler, but I don't think they will. However, I have supported this suggestion without demanding it, preferring to hold up the mirror and ask questions about whether our ICS can be an exemplar in engagement.
7. Appendix 1 lists my external meetings during November, December 2021 and part of January 2022.

Action required by the Board

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

Author

Stewart Francis, Chair
26th January 2022

**Appendix 1 - External meetings attended by the Chair November, December '21
and January '22**

Meeting	Date
CCC Commissioners meeting (with SS)	1 st Nov
ICS Engagement meeting (with SS)	3 rd Nov
Mike Moore, acting chair ICS	8 th Nov
Healthwatch Conference	9 th , 10 th , 11 th + 12 th Nov
Jyoti Airi, Director Public Health CCC + PCC	12 th Nov
Fiona Head, CCG	16 th Nov
ICS Private and Public Board Meetings	17 th Nov
Cllr Irene Walsh, Chair P'boro HWB, at Sandmartin House	22 nd Nov
Rob Hughes and Caroline Walker, Chair & CEO NWAFT at PCH	26 th Nov
Cllr Susan Van de Ven, Chair CCC HWB	29 th Nov
Jan Thomas, CEO CCG designate CEO ICB	1 st Dec
Vision for Peterborough Meeting, PCC + others	1 st Dec
Healthwatch C&P Director Interviews	8 th , 13 th 14 th Dec
Patrick Peal, Chair Norfolk Healthwatch	14 th Dec
ICS Partnership Board Private and Public	15 th Dec
Cllr Nethsinga, Leader CCC	16 th Dec
Steve Cox, PCC - Vision for Peterborough	17 th Dec
John O'Brien, Chair Designate ICP	21 st Dec
Mary Elford, Chair CCS	21 st Dec
John O'Brien & Jan Thomas, ICB Chair and CEO designates, ICS/ICB Engagement (with SS)	5 th Jan
Healthwatch England Chairs Meeting	11 th Jan

Julie Spence, Chair CPFT	12 th Jan
Fiona Head, CCG - Health Inequalities (with SS)	14 th Jan
Cambs and P'boro HWB Whole System Joint Sub Committee	17 th Jan