

Report to:

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Relevant Officer:

Ms Sheralee Turner-Birchall, Engagement Manager, Healthwatch

Date of Meeting:

13 February 2019

HEALTHWATCH BLACKPOOL PROGRESS REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an update on the work of Healthwatch Blackpool and determine how it can be used to better influence the Scrutiny Committee's workplan and how work undertaken by Healthwatch can provide an evidence source for the Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the report and its appendices and identify areas for further scrutiny work and engagement.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To better inform Members of the work of Healthwatch and use information provided by them in a more meaningful way.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Healthwatch Blackpool is the public voice for health and social care in Blackpool and exists to make services work for the people who use them.

- 6.2 Documents and reports including the Francis report have demonstrated the importance of the relationship between local authority health scrutiny and Healthwatch and in light of the Francis Report, health scrutiny must consider ways of independently verifying information provided by relevant NHS bodies and relevant health service providers – for example, by seeking the views of local Healthwatch.
- 6.3 As stated in the Department of Health’s Local Health Scrutiny Guidance, local Healthwatch organisations and contractors have specific roles which complement those of health scrutiny bodies. For example, they can “enter and view” certain premises at which health and social care services are provided. This can enable local Healthwatch to act as the “eyes and ears” of patients and the public; to be a means for health scrutiny to supplement and triangulate information provided by service providers; and to gain an additional impression of quality of services, safety and issues of concern around specific services and provider institutions.
- 6.4 Health scrutiny bodies and local Healthwatch are likely each to benefit from regular contact and exchange of information about their work programmes. It may also be helpful in planning work programmes, to try to ensure that certain aspects are aligned. For example, if a health scrutiny body is planning a review of a certain service, it might be useful if local Healthwatch plans to visit the service in a timely way to inform the review.

The appendices to this report provide an overview of the recent work of Healthwatch.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 5(a): Healthwatch Progress Report
Appendix 5(b): Healthwatch Annual Report 2017/2018
Appendix 5(c): Recent Healthwatch Newsletter

8.0 Legal considerations:

- 8.1 The duties of health scrutiny and Healthwatch are set out in legislation.

9.0 Human resources considerations:

- 9.1 None.

10.0 Equalities considerations:

- 10.1 None.

11.0 Financial considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Ethical considerations:

13.1 None.

14.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

14.1 None.

15.0 Background papers:

15.1 None.