

**Report to:**

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Relevant Officer:**

Beth Martin, Healthwatch Blackpool Manager

**Date of Meeting:**

8 February 2024

## **HEALTHWATCH BLACKPOOL UPDATE 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 local Healthwatch.

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? No

### **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 Our insights, intelligence and reports demonstrate the importance of the relationship with our local community, to shape, change and scrutinise local health and care services.
- 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.

6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 6a - Healthwatch Blackpool Annual Report 2022-23

**8.0 Financial considerations**

8.1 None

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

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

**10.0 Risk management considerations**

10.1 None

**11. Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people**

11.1 None

**12. Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations**

12.1 None

**13. Internal/external consultation undertaken**

13.1 None

**14. Background papers**

14.1 None