

Subject:	Brighton & Hove Healthwatch Annual Report 2016/17		
Date of Meeting:	06 December 2017		
Report of:	Executive Lead, Strategy, Governance & Law		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 Healthwatch is the local independent consumer champion for health and care.
- 1.2 Healthwatch is a co-opted member of both the Brighton & Hove HOSC and the Health & Wellbeing Board, and is this year presenting its annual report to the HOSC (**Appendix 1**).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members note the Healthwatch annual report (**Appendix 1**).

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The 2012 Health & Social Care Act required each upper-tier local authority in England to commission a local Healthwatch organisation to undertake the statutory responsibility for being the independent consumer champion for health and social care.
- 3.2 Community Works (then Community and Voluntary Sector Forum) was the successful bidder for the local Healthwatch contract, and Brighton & Hove Healthwatch became operational in April 2013.
- 3.3 Healthwatch B&H incorporated as an independent Community Interest Company (CIC) organisation with an asset lock on 14 October 2014. This meant that staff moved from Community Works to the new CIC and operated under the new company as of 01 April 2015, with nine active directors.
- 3.4 In 2015, the organisation restructured as a result of a number of drivers most notably in response to create a fit for purpose organisation capable of delivering its statutory responsibilities and in recognition of the need to improve impact, efficiency and effectiveness in order to be a credible Health and Social Care champion in the city.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 There is no statutory requirement for Healthwatch to present its annual report to the HOSC, but there are obvious benefits in Healthwatch sharing its intelligence with the HOSC.
- 4.2 The council as part of its statutory responsibility for performance management continues to monitor Healthwatch Brighton & Hove through the Third Sector Investment Programme within a quarterly performance monitoring framework.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The development of the Annual Report is based on Healthwatch B&H's consistent approach to seeking to hear people's stories about their experiences of health and social care services, using these to develop an effective evidence base. They use their statutory powers to Enter and View any premises so that their authorised representatives can observe matters relating to health and social care services. They also gather information and insight through outreach and by sending trained volunteer representatives to a wide range of public meetings, specialist and strategic committees and decision making forums.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Healthwatch annual report is presented for information.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 None to this report as it is for information.

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications to this report

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date: 14.09.17

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 Healthwatch B&H CIC have updated the actions from the original EIA and have undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment in September 2016 on their Healthwatch activity and the Independent Health Complaints Advocacy Service which is delivered by their partner Brighton & Hove Impetus.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 None to for this report as it is being presented for information.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Healthwatch Brighton & Hove Annual Report 2016-17
2. Slides from Healthwatch (noting that some local health services have improved since the period covered by the Annual Report)

