

Tuesday 11/06/2013

Question: B&H Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- Can the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee apply pressure to the Community Voluntary Sector Forum to accept the recommendations (and comments) of Robert Francis QC in respect of how they are developing the Brighton & Hove Healthwatch?
- The Francis Report identified many serious shortcomings of the Staffordshire Link, and made firm recommendations to be carried forward into the new Health & Social Care Watchdog to be known as Healthwatch.
- These are detailed in this separate paper, which is too long to read out now, but which I will pass forward.
- My own experiences of our local LINK and the CVSF show many parallels with Mr Francis's findings, and I am concerned that the CVSF are now developing our Brighton & Hove Healthwatch without any regard to the Francis Report recommendations.
- We are now over two months into the contract for the new HealthWatch, and there has been no Public Engagement yet. The CVSF seem to be going their own "closed shop" way.
- I shall conclude by just quoting just two examples:
 - Paragraph 1.174 (of the Francis Report) states that those with a responsibility for HealthWatch should seek the involvement of the public (as set out in the full table of recommendations).
 - Page 481 of the Francis Report is flagrantly being disregarded in which concerns are expressed about "recruiting from a small unrepresentative pool of the usual suspects". The CVSF are not inviting "fresh blood" to join them in the set-up of HealthWatch.
- So my question is:
Can the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee apply pressure to the CVSF to accept the recommendations (and comments) of Robert Francis QC in respect of how they are developing the Brighton & Hove Healthwatch?

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