



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 15th SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTHWATCH LEICESTERSHIRE REVIEW AND RECOMMISSIONING

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with the Review of Healthwatch Leicestershire.

Link to the local Health and Care System

2. The purpose of Healthwatch is to promote continuous improvement in local health and social care services and achieve improved outcomes for local people. The contract scope includes services that are related to all of the work-streams of Better Care Together and are delivered within the context of the local strategic framework including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Better Care Fund Plan and the developing Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board note this report.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

4. Proposals for the Review and Recommissioning of Healthwatch Leicestershire were reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 19th November 2015 when it was resolved that the proposals be noted.

Background

5. The Healthwatch Leicestershire (HWL) contract is hosted by Voluntary Action Leicestershire who deliver Healthwatch Leicestershire. The contract has been extended until the end of June 2017 reflecting good contract performance and the timetable for implementing the Review and re-commissioning process.

Progress of the Review

6. Mair Health Ltd has been appointed to carry out the Review of Healthwatch Leicestershire and the Review commenced at the end of July 2016. The Review will inform the specification for a future Healthwatch service and will consider the strategic objectives, scope and focus of the contract, governance and organisational structure, resources, measuring contract performance and progress, experience of implementing the current contract that is relevant to re-commissioning and experience of delivery in other areas.

7. The Review is currently progressing well and has included secondary research focused on analysis of information relating to Healthwatch Leicestershire and on information from Healthwatch England, the King's Fund and comparator areas. Primary research has included a focus on interviews and surveys to seek views from the Healthwatch Board, members and volunteers, chairs of meetings attended by Healthwatch, members of the Health and Wellbeing Board, stakeholders and other Healthwatch commissioners. The Review is due to be completed by 23rd September 2016.

Consultation

8. The Review of Healthwatch Leicestershire has incorporated a wide-ranging programme of consultation as set out above.

Resource Implications

9. Department of Health funding for Healthwatch and associated contracts (Independent NHS Advocacy Services (ICAS) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) in hospitals) is provided via the Local Reform and Communities Voices Grant (LRCVG). The Review of Healthwatch Leicestershire is being funded from County Council resources.

Timetable for Decisions

10. The findings of the Healthwatch Review will be presented to the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on 17th November 2016. The Review findings will be presented by the lead consultant. The Review will then be reported to the County Council's Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 13th December 2016. It is proposed that the Healthwatch tender will be advertised before Christmas 2016 and awarded in April 2017 with a start date of 1st July 2017.

Background papers

None

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

Officer to Contact

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Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

11. Healthwatch Leicestershire is committed to reducing inequalities in health and social care outcomes and this priority will be reflected in future commissioning.

Partnership Working and associated issues

12. Partnership working is fundamental to the work of Healthwatch Leicestershire and will be central to the future service specification. The views of partners are being sought to contribute to the Healthwatch Review.

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