

Subject:	Healthwatch Update		
Date of Meeting:	10 September 2013		
Report of:	Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Kath Vlcek	Tel: 29-0450
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give members background information about Healthwatch, an update regarding the development of Healthwatch Brighton and Hove and to highlight the relationship between Overview and Scrutiny and Healthwatch.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That HWOSC members note the Healthwatch information and how to best utilise the relationship between Healthwatch and HWOSC.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Healthwatch Brighton and Hove was established in April 2013. It replaces the Local Involvement Network (LiNk) established in 2008 and will carry on its work, with the addition of new functions and powers.
- 3.2 Nationally, Healthwatch's remit is to influence, signpost and advise service users on health services locally. Healthwatch has a range of statutory powers. More information on their role and their powers can be found in **Appendix One (Healthwatch Brighton and Hove)**.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Part of Healthwatch's key function is to consult and engage with the community. From April to July 2013 they worked with volunteers formerly from LiNk, in order to provide some continuity.
- 4.2 From August – October 2013 Healthwatch is focussed on recruiting volunteers and its Shadow Governing Body. More detail of this can be found in **Appendix One (Healthwatch Brighton and Hove)**.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 None to this cover report.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 None to this cover report although it should be noted that Healthwatch was set up due to the Health and Social Care Act 2013. From April 2014 Healthwatch Brighton and Hove will be an independent entity with its own legal form.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Healthwatch's role is to give communities a stronger voice to challenge service providers, aiming to improve the experience for service users throughout the city. It is likely that some of the protected equality groups have had differing, perhaps more negative, experiences of the local health service to date; Healthwatch's remit will be to reflect and challenge this where possible.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 None to this cover report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None to this cover report

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 None to this cover report.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 Healthwatch is a key figure in gauging public opinion of health service provision locally, and will be well placed to provide patient experience of different services. Unlike LINK, it has a remit which covers both children and adults and so it can represent all service user groups.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 None to this cover report.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 There is a legal obligation to establish Healthwatch under the Health and Social Care Act 2013. Therefore there is no alternative to establishing a local Healthwatch.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Healthwatch Brighton and Hove.
- 2.

