

## Update to Health and Wellbeing Board June 2019

### Healthwatch Ambassadors

Healthwatch has two ambassadors attending the Health Improvement Board and Children's Trust. We are recruiting to the Health Improvement Board as Richard Lohman, ex Healthwatch Oxfordshire Trustee and our representative on the Oxfordshire Health Inequalities Commission, has resigned for personal reasons. Healthwatch Oxfordshire thanks Richard for his invaluable involvement over the past six years. For information about the role contact [hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](mailto:hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk) or call 01865 520 520.

### Health and Wellbeing Board Network

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is now developing in more detail the delivery of three network meetings per annum to widen the influence on the Board by the voluntary, community, service providers and local health and wellbeing groups. Working with all board partners this will be an exciting and, in Oxfordshire, an innovative approach to 'stakeholder' involvement and influence. Further updates will be given to the board at the meeting in September, by which time the first network meeting will be fully planned and promoted.

### Healthwatch Oxfordshire

We are pleased to confirm that Oxfordshire County Council has agreed a three-year grant-in-aid agreement with Healthwatch Oxfordshire Ltd to deliver the Healthwatch functions in the county. This gives us the confidence to continue to consolidate our presence and further develop our approach to listening to the population of Oxfordshire.

Our plans for this year, and onto 2020, include adopting a themed approach to our listening activities - this year it is mental health. This reflects the fact that we have heard much about people's experiences of mental health services over the past few years - we want to know more. The NHS Long Term Plan identifies mental health as a priority, and Oxfordshire of being one of the lowest funded per capita services in the country. We will work with and through existing partnerships, organisations and target seldom heard communities. We will use our enter and view powers to hear from services users in NHS and voluntary sector settings.

Our plans for 2019-20 include listening to families of serving military personnel, visiting schools to hear from pupils, adopting an innovative approach to our established town events, and increasing our enter and view activity across services. We also want to build on the work we did in Banbury at the end of last year and recently in Rosehill to reach and listen to seldom heard communities. We

realise that to be successful we need to build relationships and trust, but the welcome we have received so far together with the growing wealth of experiences we hear reinforces the need to direct resources towards this activity.

Listening and giving voice and opportunity to the voluntary sector has been a thread throughout our work over the past few years. We will continue to develop this focusing on utilising our website as a two-way communication vessel, and regular Forum meetings. Taking note of other local initiatives and groupings we will develop our strategy with these in mind - not to duplicate, but to enhance and fill gaps where identified.

The Healthwatch Oxfordshire 2018-19 Annual Report will be presented by the staff team on 25<sup>th</sup> June at the Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford from 6:30pm. This is a public event, and all are welcome.

### Activity and reports

- Healthwatch Oxfordshire worked with other Healthwatch organisations across the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West STP footprint to support stakeholder engagement around the **NHS Ten Year Forward Plan**. Funded by NHS England, we ran two focus groups with **mental health service users** and one with an **Asian Women's group** on prevention, plus completion of Healthwatch England questionnaire (126 respondents) resulting in a joint report to be published in June. Both focus group reports are available on Healthwatch Oxfordshire website.
- Healthwatch Oxfordshire's report on outreach in **Thame** is now on our website. We spoke to 348 people, as well as carrying out four 'Enter and View' visits in local GP surgeries and residential care homes. Comments received highlighted access to NHS dentistry, capacity of local GPs, and top concerns voiced by young people were about drugs and alcohol, and the need for more prevention.
- Working with East Oxford United a short 'social media clip' will be launched at Oxford's Eid Extravaganza on 9<sup>th</sup> June, highlighting importance of NHS Checks for men. This completes the **Men's Health** project, by giving user-friendly health message that men can distribute themselves through their networks. We have been asked to present the Men's Health film to Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust's annual staff conferences on Gender Equality.
- Healthwatch Oxfordshire is continuing to support the development of **Patient Participation Groups** across the county and following the successful events in January 2019 we are holding a 'working together' networking event in Wallingford on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- We plan to do some research around the impact of the changes to care assessments that came into force in October 2018.