

Unapproved DISCUSSION NOTES

Meeting Title: Healthwatch County Durham Board Meeting	Date: 17 th June 2024
Time: 10-12.30 pm	Venue: The Work Place, Newton Aycliffe

Board Membership: (attendees in bold)			
Chris Shore (CCS) Chair (Teams)	Judi Evans (JE)	Jim Welch (JW) (Teams)	
Lakkur Murthy (LM) Vice Chair (Teams)	Mary Mitchell (MM)	Zena Forster (ZF)	

As required:						
Gail McGee	Vic Dixon	Claire Sisterson	Julia Catherall	Chloe Bradbury	Lynsey Kim	Tony Bentley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Sandra Burton						

Guests: Lorraine Rasmussen (DCC Commissioner)

Agenda No.	Item	To Action
1.	<p>Welcome CCS welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies: Zena Forster</p> <p>Declarations of interest: No new declarations of interest.</p> <p>Notes from the 15th April 2024 meeting - agreed as an accurate record. MM asked for an update on the 2nd Mental Health Transformation Launch Event in Stanley and VD assured her it was professional and went smoothly.</p> <p>It was decided that as there was no public joining the meeting this board meeting was confidential.</p>	
2.	<p>Annual Report and Annual Event</p> <p>Annual Report GM sent the annual report to the board prior to the meeting and had requested feedback about the content. CCS raised the part about the d/Deaf community and suggested the term was explained within the report. It was suggested we add in what we intend to do next with our work plans and add more outcomes to the report. LM asked to put more focus on the impact and achievements of HWCD, and the benefits of using the service.</p>	GM

	<p>TB's work in the Dales and the influence we have had there was highlighted. It was agreed that this is the first time we have done this with HWCD and could there be focus put on how we would like to carry this on and also the difficulties we have had?</p> <p>JW noted that there is a lot of work done around signposting and could this be showcased more in the report?</p> <p>JE added that we could add more personal experiences and quotes.</p> <p>GM will take the feedback on board when finalising the report, but mentioned that as a report of the 2023-24 year, it could be difficult to incorporate a wider view of HWCD.</p> <p>Annual Event It was noted that the 2 guest speakers are confirmed. As the annual event is the day before the general election, it was suggested pre-election guidance should be mentioned in the opening sections. CCS will discuss further with GM. A discussion was had about whether we should invite the Safeguarding Adults Board along to answer questions or give out information. If they are unavailable, we could get some resources to share at the event.</p>	GM
<p>3.</p>	<p>Work Plans</p> <p>GM discussed the projects it is proposed HWCD will be working on this financial year in the team.</p> <p>Pharmacy First – the survey is now live and LK has worked with [redacted] Public Health on this. She advised we will also come back to this later in the year to do some comparative work and see if there have been changes in feedback and experience.</p> <p>JW asked if we could share the survey with him so he could share it [redacted]. The board members had a discussion about privacy in pharmacies and that there often isn't any confidential space to speak to pharmacists. Some pharmacies also share their space with other services, such as post offices or supermarkets, again, hindering confidentiality.</p> <p>Maternity Services – specifically miscarriage experiences. It was noted that the survey has had quite a few responses so far. JC has made contact with local support groups.</p> <p>Mental Health Transformation – it was noted that CB has started to reduce attendance at individual steering groups, and focus more on the county wide group, unless she feels attendance at specific groups is required. [redacted]</p> <p>TEWV – work and discussions with TEWV are still ongoing, there will be a meeting with [redacted]</p> <p>Suicide and Suicide Prevention – work has begun on suicide and CB is currently liaising with If U Care Share, a local support service.</p> <p>It was noted that TB has worked on a draft internal report that has been sent to the board.</p> <p>Youth Engagement – local young people chose the name 'Youth Health' for our work. SB has now made contacts with many groups. She has contact with the Youth Council which has 102 members. SB will be going into PSHE lessons in schools from September to discuss health and social care.</p> <p>Feedback from young people so far – They have said professionals talk directly to their parents instead of them.</p>	GM/VD

	<p>A theme that has come up is as soon as they turn a certain age GPs prescribe them tablets instead of liquid medication which can cause panic and choking as they don't have the experience or confidence to take the tablet. It was suggested SB could speak to [redacted] (PH) for guidance on children/teens taking tablets.</p>	SB
4.	<p>ICB Work Update</p> <p>GM updated the Board regarding the Dentistry initiative – noting that the report is finished and has been sent to the ICB. They will use the recommendations to help make decisions for the Dental Recovery Plan. [redacted] Women's Health – There is a conference in July around women's health. They would like HWCD to create a survey, host focus groups and tend a listening booth at the event itself.</p>	
5.	<p>Healthwatch Sustainability</p> <p>CCS has attended some workshops [redacted]</p>	
6.	<p>Break</p>	
7.	<p>Budget Planning and Finance</p> <p>[redacted]</p>	
8.	<p>Healthwatch County Durham Contract Review</p> <p>[redacted]</p>	
9.	<p>Reports and Briefings</p> <p>Signposting Logs</p>	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Board Recruitment [redacted] A discussion took place regarding the role of a Board member – it is not employment but it is a commitment, and about what people want from being on the board. It could be centred around how it is a public service and they would be giving back in that way. MM suggested that we could appeal to those already in the voluntary sector. LR mentioned that Durham County Council have a Volunteer programme and that she could speak to them to give us advice going forward with recruitment, and we could also plug it at the annual event. GM also recommended that CS join the interviews as she is a volunteer supporter and she didn't feel it right to be in the interviews herself. For the advert it might be beneficial to break down the job description more clearly and explain what would be expected of them.</p>	GM follow up

Date of next Board meeting: 19th August 2024
Venue and times to be confirmed