

Chair's report

Purpose

1. To update the Board on recent meetings attended (see Appendix 1). In addition to these I have been in regular contact with Sandie Smith our outgoing CEO, our new CEO Julian Stanley, the Deputy Chair, NEDs and various staff members.

Key issues

2. I am pleased to report that Sandie Smith had a great send off on her retirement from Healthwatch after 10 years of tremendous service. I am also pleased to report that the appointment of Julian Stanley and the hand over with Sandie has gone smoothly. Much of my time has been spent ensuring a robust transition. Julian is already settling into his role while meeting staff, NEDs and system leaders.
3. In the New Year I completed the appraisals of all NEDs which I found a very useful process - I am pretty sure they did too. I am grateful for the ideas and support I was offered. My annual appraisal was conducted by Sandie Smith and the Deputy Chair Philippa Brice. I am grateful for their time and for conducting this in such a professional and thorough manner.
4. I have spent time with a number of our NEDs (especially our new ones) to help establish how best they can help with our Healthwatch mission.
5. Sadly, we also said goodbye to our Deputy Chair Philippa Brice as her new role with the ICS may have thrown up a conflict of interest. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Philippa who always provided fantastic support to both CEO and Chair.

We will soon start a recruitment push to find one or two more NEDs to join the Board.

6. I am recommending to the Board that we now appoint two Deputy Chairs from our current NEDs – Saqib Rehman and Francis Dewhurst. They are our longest serving NEDs and have good knowledge of both Healthwatch and the system. Most importantly one lives in the North of large geographical area while the other lives in the South. As the Board will be aware I am always keen to ensure the best balance possible across all aspects of our Boards composition.

I am confident that all three of us will work well together and I will ask the Board to ratify these appointments.

7. I continue to attend the Integrated Care System Board meetings and Development days as a non-voting member. This is an important opportunity to push for the changes and improvements patients and those in receipt of care seek. In addition, I have been attending the monthly system development meetings in an attempt to ensure the patient voice is heard as the new integrated system takes root. I also sit on the Joint Health and Wellbeing/Integrated Care Partnership Board and attend its meetings and development sessions.

All attendances are important to ensure some of our guiding principles are not lost in the huge change that is going on around us. I have also been keen to point out that the system must now move speedily from planning mode to delivery. The CEO and staff are also "plugged in " to the various levels of the system where much of the delivery work is/will be carried out.

8. Finally, we all know that the NHS and Social Care is in crisis. I believe that there has never been a more important time for the patient voice to be listened to and heard. We have the opportunities to ensure this is the case.

Action required by the Board

The board is asked:

To note the contents of the report.

To endorse the appointments of two Deputy Chairs as set out.

Author:

Stewart Francis, Chair

19th April 2023

Appendix 1

Meetings attended by the Chair - 14th December 2022 – 30th March 2023

Meeting	Date
CEO interviews	16 th Dec
Briefing for appointed CEO	9 th Jan
Integrated Care System Board meeting	13 th Jan
Healthwatch Commissioner meeting	16 th Jan
ABU development meeting	18 th Jan
Health and Wellbeing/ICP development meeting	20 th Jan
Chair Appraisal	25 th Jan
Healthwatch Board development	25 th Jan
Chair Healthwatch England	26 th Jan
ABU development	2 nd Feb
Healthwatch budget meeting	7 th Feb
Appointed CEO briefing	20 th Feb
ABU development	22 nd Feb
Healthwatch Board budget meeting	22 nd Feb
Healthwatch summit meeting	8 th Mar

Health and Wellbeing/ICP development	16 th Mar
Dr Andrew Anderson – Urgent Care	16 th Mar
Healthwatch Peterborough forum	23 rd Mar
Healthwatch Commissioners meeting	23 rd Mar
Health and Wellbeing/ICP Board meeting	24 th Mar
SUN Network meeting	27 th Mar
Healthwatch summit meeting	28 th Mar
ICB 23/24 Planning meeting	29 th Mar