Healthwatch North Tyneside - Minutes of Board Meeting

Date and time: Monday 1 June 2025, 18:00 – 20:00

Venue: Healthwatch North Tyneside Office, Wallsend

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Present: Jackie Doughty (JD), Paul McKelvie (PM), Paul Greenway (PG), David Slater (DS), Peter Berrie (PB), Maxine Ulrich Houston (MH)

In attendance: Paul Jones (PJ), Katy Parkinson (KP), Tracey Hindmarch (TH)

Apologies: Chair - Carol Nevison (CN), Lindsay Yarde (LY), Paula McCormack (PMC), Bea Groves-McDaniel (BGM)

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Agenda item 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

DS Chaired the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

Carol Nevison (CN), Lindsay Yarde (LY), Paula McCormack (PMC) and Bea Groves-McDaniel (BGM) sent apologies.

The Board sends CN and PMC their best wishes.

For each item, the Board considered any equalities, Health and Safety and safeguarding issues arising and considered these as part of their decision-making.

Agenda item 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

Agenda item 3. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meetings were reviewed and approved as an accurate record.

Agenda Item 4: Chair and Director updates – presented by PJ

Refer to Board papers for updates and agreed the Future Board Meetings dates:

- 14 September
- 2 November
- 7 December

Action 4.1: KP will send calendar invites to board members.

Healthwatch England Chairs visit – PJ provided a verbal update:

Chair of HWE said:

- He will be meeting with new the Secretary of State informally in a few weeks' time.
- Hopeful that Local HW will continue, despite the pending closure of HWE.
- Expect significant opposition to the government's proposal in the House of Lords.
- Discussed the challenges within CQC, there have been a lot of staff changes at the top. Chief exec of CQC will be announced in parliament.
- North East should be proud of its joint working and relationship with ICB

Agenda item 5: Escalations and Considerations

- No new escalations or issues were reported regarding GDPR, health and safety, or equalities.
- 1 x safeguarding referral.
- 2 x almost safeguarding referral that we have dealt with through Adult Social Care.
- DS mentioned the EHRC updated guidance around single sex spaces, however PJ does not know how will impact the work we do directly. Inclusivity and accessibility will need to be checked before meeting spaces are booked. BGM has sent PJ an email regarding this, which PJ will review after this meeting.

Action 5.1: PJ to review EHRC updated (draft) guidance.

Agenda item 6: 2026/7 workplan and priorities

The Board discussed the detail of the draft work plan, including the following. The workplan was agreed.

Continue and conclude our ongoing projects update:

Continence, Voices in Safeguarding and Cancer Prevention projects are approaching the end, the Carers project is continuing and ongoing.

Implementing the NHS 10 Year Plan discussion:

PJ informed the Board of the potential 3-year funded project proposal with the ICB to promote the 10-year plan and involve/engage with local people. The aim would be to include local voices into the implementation of this. It will focus on the practicalities of how people access different services. This is going to their board next week for discussion.

Transport – Barriers to accessing Health and care discussion:

Action 6.1: PJ to circulate Transport slides from team briefing.

Shorter 'take the temperature' engagement exercises discussion:

Highlighting the importance of individual patient stories. Looking at how we improve our case study activity.

Our current and future work plan will enable us to connect and showcase the work that we do to the following:

- ICB
- Hospital Trusts
- Provider Collaboratives
- Council – Adult Social Care
- Combined / Strategic Authority

Being a robust organisation discussion:

DS mentioned digital data collection and advances in technology, and the need to mirror this as a charity, and how can we collect independent data that makes us stand out and represent the independent patient voice. MH mentioned the need for compatibility of systems to make HW useful to the public.

Agenda item 7: CLOSED SESSION End of year finance position

The board noted the end of year position and thanked everyone involved in the careful management of the charity's finances.

Budget for 2026/7

The Board has agreed with the budget planning for 2026/7 set out in the Board papers, further details below.

- **National living wage or real living wage decision –** The Board has agreed Option C – to pay the real living wage this year and review again next year.
- **Pay award for 2026/7 decision –** The Board was asked to decide on the level of pay rise for staff in 2026/7. The Board agreed 3.5% backdated to April 2026.

Agenda item 8: Any other business

- Staff morale was discussed and how to approach future changes within HW and how this affects different team members.
- PJ mentioned working with the Network and having a collective view for the future, support in navigating this will be appreciated and necessary when the time comes.
- The Board agreed that DS will now be Treasurer and thanked JD for her role in this.