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| Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 9th July 2026 Healthwatch Hackney Annual Report 25/26 | Item No 6 |
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OUTLINE

Each year the Commission considers the Annual Report of the local Healthwatch which is submitted to Healthwatch England. Members use the report as an opportunity to discuss the past year's performance.

The *NHS Modernisation Bill (Health Bill)*, currently progressing through Parliament, explicitly outlines the complete abolition of Healthwatch England and all 153 local Healthwatch bodies. While the government has formally initiated this legislation local Healthwatch bodies currently remain open and operational under a "business as usual" transition phase until the law officially takes effect. Current Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) funding for Healthwatch is scheduled to run until 31 March 2027.

At the same time funding for patient engagement projects such as Community Voice which Healthwatch ran for NHS NEL has ended. Healthwatch was funded by a mix of the national Healthwatch grant disbursed via the council and funding from NHS NEL. There has been no announcement on what might replace both.

Healthwatch Hackney has had a long history of working closely with the Commission and supporting it in its work. The Executive Director attends each meeting and the Commission considers Healthwatch's reports and insight across a number of items on its agendas.

Attached please find - *Annual Report and Accounts for 2025/26*.

Attending for this item will be:

Deborah Cohen, Chair of Healthwatch Hackney
Sally Beaven, Executive Director of Healthwatch Hackney

ACTION

The Commission is requested to give consideration to the report.