

18 October 2023

Subject:	Healthwatch Sandwell introduction and work programme
Presenting Officer and Organisation	Phil Griffin Healthwatch Sandwell HAB Chair Alexia Farmer Healthwatch Sandwell Manager Sophie Shuttlewood Healthwatch Sandwell Projects and Partnership Lead.  
Purpose of Report	Information

1 Recommendations

1.1 To consider and note the Healthwatch Sandwell Introduction.

2 Links to the following Board Priorities

Priority 1	We will help keep people healthier for longer HWS report to and raise issues regarding health and social care, identify areas of concern and hold key stakeholders to account
Priority 2	We will help keep people safe and support Communities HWS aims to tackle health and economic inequalities, reduce isolation, and promote community cohesion by reporting and raising concerns and issues with relevant key stakeholders
Priority 3	We will work together to join up services HWS works in partnership with our community, voluntary sector organisations and the wider health system to build resilience deliver a positive impact on health outcomes.
Priority 4	We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services

HWS are link for patients and non-patients to key stakeholders and decision makers in Sandwell
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4 Context and Key Issues

The aim of local Healthwatch is to give citizens and communities a stronger voice to influence and challenge how health and social care services are provided within their locality. Local Healthwatch organisations are a statutory service commissioned by local councils as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Healthwatch are set apart from statutory structures, voluntary and community sector they work with, as they perform public functions, deliver statutory duties, and receive public funding.

Healthwatch have a legal power to visit health and care services and see them in action. The power to Enter and View offers a way for Healthwatch to meet some of their statutory functions and allows them to identify what is working well with services and how they can improve

5 Engagement

Healthwatch work with local people and stakeholders across Sandwell in Sandwell Council, BCMHFT, ICP, ICS and voluntary organisations We use feedback from people to better understand the challenges facing NHS and other care providers to ensure experiences improve Health and care services for everyone

6 Implications

Resources:	Healthwatch is funded through a contract with LA and an in-year contract value of £180k
Legal and Governance:	Governance is via the local Healthwatch Advisory Board who assures the work plans agreed every year through established performance reporting processes
Risk:	Risk implications, including any mitigating measures planned/taken, health and safety, insurance implications
Equality:	EDI is a strong value which underpins everything that Healthwatch Sandwell does
Health and Wellbeing:	Our work programmes and the support we give to local people helps to address access issues and to improve outcomes for local communities
Social Value:	Healthwatch employs local people and has a number of volunteers engaged in its work

Climate Change:	We give a commitment to minimise carbon footprint by encouraging work from home and using virtual meetings wherever possible
Corporate Parenting:	Healthwatch Sandwell is supported by its parent organisation Engaging Community Solutions

6 Appendices

1. Healthwatch Sandwell power point presentation
2. Healthwatch Sandwell work programme 2023/24

7. Background Papers

No background papers