

29 July 2025

Subject:	Healthwatch Sandwell Closure Update
Presenting Officer and Organisation	Amritpal Randhawa Chair of Healthwatch Sandwell Alexia Farmer Healthwatch Sandwell Manager
Purpose of Report	Information

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider and comment upon the Healthwatch Sandwell Closure Update.

2. Links to Workstreams Set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Healthy Communities	<p>Healthwatch Sandwell identify issues and areas of concerns within the health and social care context and hold key stakeholders to account.</p> <p>Healthwatch Sandwell aims to tackle health and economic inequalities, reduce isolation and promote community cohesion by raising concerns and issues with relevant key stakeholders.</p> <p>We work in partnership with community and voluntary sector organisations and the wider health system to build resilience within healthcare structures and deliver a positive impact on health outcomes.</p>
Primary Care	
Integrated Town Teams	
Intermediate Care	
Care Navigation	

3. Context and Key Issues

- 3.1 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 area.
- 3.2 Healthwatch are set apart from statutory structures and the voluntary and community sector, as they perform public functions, deliver statutory duties and receive public funding.
- 3.3 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.

4. Engagement

- 4.1 Healthwatch work with local people and stakeholders across Sandwell including Sandwell Council, Black Country Mental Health Foundation NHS Trust, the Integrated Care Partnership, and the community and voluntary sector.
- 4.2 We use feedback from people to better understand the challenges facing the NHS and other care providers to ensure health and care services improve.

5. Implications

Resources:	Healthwatch is funded through a contract with Sandwell Council and an in- year contract value of £180,000.
Legal and Governance:	Local Healthwatch organisations are a statutory service commissioned by local councils as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Governance arrangements are via the local Healthwatch Advisory Board who monitor the agreed work plans agreed through established performance reporting processes.
Risk:	No risk implications arising directly as a result of this report.
Equality:	Equality 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 improves outcomes for local communities.

Social Value:	Healthwatch employs local people on both a paid and voluntary basis.
Climate Change:	Healthwatch Sandwell is committed to minimising the carbon footprint by encouraging work from home and using virtual meetings wherever possible.
Corporate Parenting:	No corporate parenting implications arising directly as a result of this report.

6. Appendices

6.1 Healthwatch Sandwell Closure Update.

7. Background Papers

7.1 None.