



**Advisory Group Meeting
Tuesday 25 July 2023 10am
University of Reading**

In attendance:

Advisory Group members: Adrienne Lowe (AL), Errol Masters (EM), Luke Howarth (LH), Joan Walker (JW)

Healthwatch volunteer: Hilary Lovie (HL)

Healthwatch staff: Sarah Deason (SD) - Area Director, Alice Kunjappy-Clifton (AKC) - Lead Officer, Chukwuemeka Obiora (CO) - Healthwatch Officer (Engagement), Shamin Zafar (SZ) – Healthwatch Officer (Engagement) Tariq Gomma (TG) - Healthwatch Officer (Engagement)

Apologies: None

1	Welcome, introductions and apologies As above
2	Review of previous minutes and actions Minutes agreed.

Action	Update/date completed
Members of the AG are invited to review last year's workplan, consider the discussion today and circulate views on what the new workplan should look like, ready for the next meeting. The first sections of the plan will remain the same as these are the things all Healthwatch must do, with updated local priorities and 'watchlist'.	See below.

3	Update and workplan (AKC) Our first workplan last year focused on raising awareness of Healthwatch and as can be seen from the Annual Report a lot of time was spent working with the new BOB Integrated Care Board. We have done a public survey which has shown that GP access and quality is the main issue for local people so we will drill down into this. Brief discussion about Whitley and the gap in GP services here. AKC and SD are meeting with Amit, chair of Primary Care Alliance in early August to see how we can work with the GPs on this project.
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	<p>Dentistry still high on people's concerns – additional funding received to undertake Community Connector project under Core20Plus5 exploring teeth extraction for under 10s, focusing on most deprived areas of Reading.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor the asylum seeker situation and raise concerns/ask questions as appropriate. Rather than duplicating, we are using the HW West Berkshire report and adding Reading information.</p> <p>Accessible Information Standards – to narrow this down to a small part of this far reaching topic.</p> <p>Continuing Healthcare funding – as part of the transformation programme in BOB ICB, to interview 6 people (from Berkshire West, ie 2 from Reading) who were unsuccessful in their CHC application.</p> <p>Maternal mental health – see report on the website with next steps.</p> <p>Watchlist – cost of living (transport and prescriptions); support for carers; Building Berkshire Together (seems to be on hold as RBH has gone down the priority list in terms of funding for new hospitals); health inequalities – BOB focus is on cardiovascular disease with a health check project being currently planned in Reading.</p> <p>The AG agreed the workplan.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Engagement update & volunteers</p> <p>Discussion about interpreters at events and resources in different languages.</p> <p>TG spoke about focusing engagement on community centres, especially in areas of deprivation - finding dentistry, GPs and blood tests are the issues most commonly raised.</p> <p>AKC advised that we need more volunteers to help with awareness raising.</p> <p>AL suggested asking community centres and schools (incl via PTAs) to advertise for volunteers.</p> <p>EM said we need to go more widely, for example, to churches and police.</p> <p>LH suggested engaging local employers to raise awareness of HW, to find volunteers and collect feedback.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Would a member of the AG like to lead on a project to engage local employers?</p> <p>AKC to speak to volunteer co-ordinator about advertising more widely.</p> <p>AKC to circulate information about an IT upskilling course once received from Reading Voluntary Action.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Next steps</p>

	Action: AKC to circulate a monthly of list of upcoming events/meetings for volunteers to consider attending.
6	<p>AOB and date of next meeting</p> <p>Action: to complete poll for date of next meeting</p> <p>If anyone has an idea as to where we can meet, let AKC know.</p>

Glossary

AG	Advisory Group
BW	Berkshire West
BOB	Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West
H&WB	Health and Wellbeing Board
HOSC	Health Oversight and Scrutiny Committee
HWE	Healthwatch England
HWR	Healthwatch Reading
ICB	Integrated Care Board
ICP	Integrated Care Partnership
ICS	Integrated Care System
NHSE	NHS England
PPG	Patient Participation Group
RBC	Reading Borough Council