

**Advisory Group Meeting
Tuesday 9 May 2023 1.30pm
Online via MS Teams**

In attendance:

Advisory Group members: Barbara Cochee (BCoc), Errol Masters (EM), Luke Howarth (LH), Joan Walker (JW)

Healthwatch staff: Sarah Deason (SD) - Area Director, Alice Kunjappy-Clifton (AKC) - Lead Officer, Chukwuemeka Obiora (CO) - Healthwatch Officer (Engagement), Gráinne Colgan (GCol) – Healthwatch Officer (Communications) Tariq Gomma (TG) - Healthwatch Officer (Engagement)

Apologies:

Brenda Dean (Advisory Group member)

1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>As above</p>
2	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Staff members introduced themselves and their roles. Advisory Group members gave a brief overview of their background and reason for joining the HWR AG.</p>
3	<p>Overview of staff/volunteer recruitment (SD/AKC)</p> <p>SD explained the background to The Advocacy People taking over Healthwatch Reading from 1 June 2022. Recruitment of staff and volunteers has been a big focus of our work to date.</p> <p>Team members have been recruited, with Tariq and Emeka joining us with backgrounds of considerable involvement in the community.</p>
4	<p>Progress towards workplan to 31/03/2023</p> <p><i>Experiences of asylum seekers in Home Office accommodation in Reading:</i> been a continuous theme since November and supported by recommendations from Healthwatch West Berkshire report which have been shared with the ICB and RBC. As a result of our intervention, the ICB will shortly be conducting safeguarding assurance visits across Berkshire West, prioritising Reading as there are women and children accommodated locally whereas other sites in Berkshire West host mainly men.</p> <p><i>Maternal mental health report by HWE.</i> 1 in 10 women do not have postnatal checks and even if they do mental health is not a conversation. We are exploring this locally and to identify how improvements can be made. Suicide is high amongst women during first 12 months after childbirth.</p>

	<p><i>Working with the local system:</i> In July 2022 the Berkshire West CCG was absorbed into the wider Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) ICS. We've been working with the other Healthwatch across the BOB patch (noting The Advocacy People host the 3 in Berkshire West place) to ensure local voices aren't lost.</p> <p><i>Building Berkshire Together:</i> We have helped them to engage the public in the consultation regarding the future of Royal Berkshire Hospital. Discussion suggested that this hasn't been successful, people haven't been properly involved, particularly those who are digitally excluded.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Forward plan to 31/03/2024</p> <p>AKC, who has been in post since October, has found that HWR is not well known in the Reading which has resulted in our 'HW reboot' roadshow to raise awareness. TG and CO agreed that advertising is needed through all channels.</p> <p>AKC mentioned that pharmacies are rising up our agenda with many closures. She attended a BW ICB meeting this morning – they have £1.3m to spend on reducing health inequalities, with high blood pressure one of their priorities.</p> <p>Discussion about GP access as the main concern from our recent public survey, Points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a national issue which everyone knows about, how can local Healthwatch make a difference? (TG) • We have spoken to the PCN about the new ways of working. Balance between this and recognising that the workforce is exhausted (AKC) • Expectations and education – understand what the public needs are and the limits of what can be delivered; raise awareness of alternative routes into healthcare to help avoid blockages; expectations around continuity of care – support public understanding. (GCoc) • Identify which surgeries are performing well and what good practice looks like; understand the issues more and differences across the patch. Should analyse the data from the surveys into postcodes to identify any 'hotspots' and potential links to deprived areas. (LH) • Is it possible to share resources between surgeries who are under and over capacity? (EM) • Role of the PPGs (GCol and LH) and the variations across the patch. SD shared that HWR have been given additional funding by BOB ICB to work more closely with PPGs and help introduce consistency.
<p>4</p>	<p>Next steps</p> <p>The meeting focussed on access to GPs as the top priority from the survey.</p> <p>ACTION: 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</p>

	as these are the things all Healthwatch must do, with updated local priorities and 'watchlist'.
9	Date of next meeting TBC. Potentially w/c 19/06/2023.

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