



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET
9 September 2015

ITEM 8

Report of the Cabinet Member for Integrated
Health & Care

Healthwatch Derby Funding Arrangements

SUMMARY

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 for local authorities to commission a Healthwatch organisation for their locality. Healthwatch Derby fulfil a consumer champion role for customers of health and social care services. They gather the views of the public and stakeholders about local services and report to local providers and commissioners.
- 1.2 In 2012-13 the Council worked with local partners to establish Healthwatch Derby (HD) as an independent registered company with charitable purposes. HD has a management board with representatives the local community and from stakeholder organisations including the Council. HD has a seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.3 Funding for the organisations is arranged through a grant funding agreement between the Council and the HD Board, this agreement expires on 31 March 2016. The level of funding may vary annually, depending upon budgetary constraints and local priorities, in 2015-16 the service is due to receive £235,000.
- 1.4 It is proposed to award a new grant for three years from April 2016 – March 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the award of a new grant for Healthwatch Derby and updating of the existing grant funding agreement for Healthwatch Derby for the period April 2016-March 2019.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 All local authorities are required to arrange for an independent Healthwatch service that provides the statutory functions set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- 3.2 The existing organisation has been developed with local partners to provide this service and has delivered this role successfully and followed guidance set by the national body Healthwatch England to review and improve the service it delivers.



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Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Health and Housing

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Cabinet Members will be aware of the national requirement in the Health & Social Care Act 2012 (Act) that required the establishment of Healthwatch England and independent local Healthwatch organisations by 1 April 2013. The responsibility for local Healthwatch delivery falling on local authorities.
- 4.2 Healthwatch Derby (HD) was established in 2012-13 to deliver the Healthwatch role of health and social care consumer champion, this includes:
- a) Being a community champion giving local people a voice that improves and enhances health and social care provision on behalf of the people of Derby
 - b) Providing innovative ways to engage with and include the views of all people living and working in the city, ensuring the voices of the seldom heard are included, in order to tackle inequalities and empower the local community
 - c) Providing robust, evidence based local intelligence that helps influence key decision making for health and social care both for the city and nationally
 - d) Be an independent respected and credible organisation that is accountable, open and transparent that will challenge service providers and commissioners when the need arises

Further detail can be found in HD's annual report for 2014-15, which can be found on the Healthwatch Derby website and is available within Appendix 2.

- 4.3 In Derby, the Health and Wellbeing Board oversaw the process of setting up HD, a registered company limited by guarantee. Governance is provided by the HD Board, initially established through a competitive interview process to reflect the demographic profile of the City and to provide a range of expertise and knowledge.
- 4.4 Healthwatch Derby employs 8 staff supported by volunteer Healthwatchers and Healthwatch Champions. It is located, as an independent organisation within the Council House to provide an appropriate high profile city centre location. The funding that Healthwatch receive has previously been subject to a £100k reduction in 2013/14, and in addition, the rent and support services charges that they are required to pay the Council for being located in the Council House are paid for by them from the grant funding they receive as income to the Resources Directorate.

- 4.5 The organisation is required to produce an annual report and to report any serious issues to the Care Quality Commission, Healthwatch England and local commissioners. In addition, the organisation is required to provide monitoring information for inspection by the Council.
- 4.6 To support communication and liaison with local services the organisation is a statutory member on the Derby Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 4.7 Healthwatch England provide guidance and support to all local Healthwatch organisations, and supports involvement in national and regional projects and research. HD has taken part in a quality assurance exercise using a self-assessment tool provided by Healthwatch England.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Undertaking a competitive grant round was considered, but rejected due to the unique set up and legal framework for the Healthwatch organisation.
- 5.2 In addition, the Council can be assured that the organisation is providing a high quality and value for money service for the people of Derby through the oversight of the independent HD Board, HD membership and the monitoring and review requirements within the HD contract.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Janie Berry Toni Nash Liz Moore Alistair Burgh Kirsty Everson
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Ian Chennery 01332 642753 ian.chennery@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Healthwatch Derby Annual Report 2014-15

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The annual budget allocation for Healthwatch Derby in 2015-16 is £235,000 that is allocated as grant funding with monitoring and claw back conditions in the event of an under spend. Future funding will be dependent upon budgetary constraints and local priorities.

Legal

- 2.1 It is a statutory requirement under the Health and Social care Act 2012 for the local authority to arrange for a local Healthwatch organisation to discharge the statutory functions of a local Healthwatch.

Personnel

- 3.1 There are no direct personnel implications for the Council.

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- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 HD are required to comply with the all equalities legislation set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 Healthwatch staff operate from the Council House and therefore the Council will have some responsibility as landlord to ensure the building is fit for purpose and safe to use.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 There is the opportunity to provide space within the Council House for partner organisations and HD has taken up this opportunity. Discussions on the basis the use of this space will need to take place and arrangements will need to be properly

documented, managed and reviewed from time to time ensure there are mutual benefits from any such agreements. The allocated space may be flexible and subject to wider council or other occupier priorities it may not be guaranteed for the duration of the contract/ scheme

Risk Management

- 9.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report, but risks around future budgetary constraints will need to be evaluated and monitored

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 This Report supports the health and wellbeing elements of the Derby Plan.