

Public Board Meeting

Thursday 25 January 2024

10.00 – 12.00 by tele/video conference

Minutes

Item	Title	Enc	Who
1	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Jo Ringshall – Chair (JR) Martin Gallagher (MG) John Taylor (JT) Chris Byrne (CB) Don Beckett (DB) Debbie Lamont (DL)</p> <p>Co-opted Board Members: St Pauls Hostel represented by Jonathan Sutton (JS) Sandycroft represented by Lee McKenzie (LM) Young Solutions represented by Pete Sugg (PS) David Saunders – Volunteer (DS)</p> <p>[NB the Co-opted Members attend the Board Meeting as non-voting participants]</p> <p>Also Present: Margaret Reilly, Suzy James, Nicola Longworth-Cook, Victoria Walsh (Engagement Officers). Paul Hopkins, Helen Wood.</p> <p>Apologies – Simon Adams – MD HWW, Mel Smith</p>		JR
2	Declaration of Interests		JR
3	<p>Care Act Advocacy</p> <p>Mick Gillick MBE of Onside gave a presentation and took questions about the independent advocacy. Onside is commissioned to provide by Worcestershire and Herefordshire County Councils. The presentation included information relating to the professional qualifications held by the advocates and the independent assessment and accreditation of the organisation.</p> <p>View the presentation at: https://www.healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Enc-1-PBM-25.01.2024-What-is-Advocacy-June-2023.pdf</p>	Enc 1	JR

	<p>The discussion that followed included several positive comments from the floor regarding the level of service provided by Onside. Additionally, there were a number of questions from those present relating to specific services being provided by Onside and their availability / accessibility.</p> <p>The presentation and subsequent discussion were recorded and can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/nZd9lxd8mOs</p>		
4	<p>Minutes of Public Board Meeting on 30 November 2023 and Matters Arising:</p> <p>The Board considered and the Directors approved the minutes of the Public Board Meeting on 30 November 2023.</p> <p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCSE Alliance: Commissioning of the VCSE to provide support to mental health services in the community. MG provided an update in relation to the ongoing work in this regard. So far satisfactory responses have not been received to HWW queries but the issue is being pursued. To be carried forward to the next meeting. • Public Awareness of Public Health Messaging JR advised the board that the full report is currently with Public Health for moderation and that we are expecting to hear further shortly. To be carried forward to the next meeting. • Cancer screening – Patients access to, and experience of NHSE's 'Informed Choice' PSA screening service for prostate cancer. CB advised the board that following research, it had become apparent that access to services was inconsistent from local GP's and that there was also concern as to the role that care navigators had in this. A letter had been sent to the CEO, NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICB seeking a response. It was added that further work is being done to raise awareness of the issue and also in relation to the "missing men" who were being evaluated as the Covid crisis arose and had subsequently "got lost". Peter Corbishley (PC), group leader of Kidderminster and Worcestershire Prostate Cancer Support Group and Trustee of Tackle Prostate Cancer presented further information regarding initiatives he has been involved in to raise awareness, increase testing and 	<p>Enc 2</p> <p>Enc 3</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>MG</p> <p>JR</p> <p>CB</p>

	<p>get the GP's to push community testing in order to reduce NHS costs in the long-term.</p> <p>The discussion that followed included several questions from those present, it was commented that it seemed crazy that testing was having to be funded from charitable causes rather than the NHS as, (common with all cancer screening), cost benefit analysis proves it to be better to test than treat. A query was raised regarding the accuracy of testing and PC responded that it is much improved. It was advised that the UK do not have a national programme and that we are at the bottom of the list of developed nations for testing and screening for prostate cancer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital Discharge Update from JR on the implementation of the Acute Trusts Discharge policy. It was advised that the amended policy included many but not all of the recommendations from our 2021 project. One that had been included was to audit the process, having chased the audit results we were informed that the audit has not yet taken place, but was being planned. They further informed that four wards had been nominated to be "perfect" and performance of these wards was to be monitored as a benchmark. 			JR
5	Business Plan 2023-2025 Progress Report Updates were provided: The Dementia project is under way, the surveys currently being finalised with the launch due w/c 29 January 2024. Focus Groups are in progress. The Young People's Wellbeing Survey is due to be launched w/c 5 February 2024 and will be distributed through schools, colleges, youth groups etc as well as the website and social media. Other projects are also ongoing including people with sensory impairments' experience of access to services.	Enc 4	JR/MR/NLC	
6	Public Participation There were no items raised from the floor.			
7	AOB with leave of the Chair CQC report The Board considered and agreed JR's proposal that the Chair of the Health & Care Trust be invited to the next PBM in light of the recent CQC report.			JR
	Date of Healthwatch Worcestershire's next Public Board Meeting			

Commented [JR1]: Perhaps we should add 'in the long term' after NHS costs

Commented [PH2R1]: Agreed and done

	Friday 22 March 2024 [Online unless otherwise notified]		
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