

Chairs Report to Board 7 September 2016

Healthwatch England Committee meeting, Exeter 24 and 25 May 2016

This two-day event enabled South West local Healthwatch organisations to meet with Healthwatch England Committee and attend their formal meeting. The afternoon of 24th was a network session for Chairs with Healthwatch England Committee members and officers. Issues discussed were STPs, Devolution and service changes. This was followed by an early evening session looking at Healthwatch intelligence – particularly how HE can interact with, inform and support local and strategic decision-making processes. Work in progress. Over dinner we were asked to consider how we can demonstrate and measure the value we bring. Day two was the formal Healthwatch England Committee meeting – the webcast of the meeting is available here: http://healthwatch.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/220754

There has been significant change at HE since last year, with its closer relationship with CQC and budget reduction, so much of the formal agenda was inevitably concerned with internal processes. HE also considered how they can better support and interact with local Healthwatch – the annual conference in June was evidence of this.

Healthwatch Annual Conference, Nottingham 9 and 10 June 2016

I attended this event with our CEO. There was a packed agenda over the two days with many parallel sessions delivered by local Healthwatch as well as two plenary sessions each day. Sessions that I found particularly interesting were:

- Using research to amplify the voice of the seldom heard – Shropshire
- Vanguard and New Models of Care
- Involving people with learning difficulties in our work – Wiltshire

Meeting with Cllr McKenna, Trevor Doughty and others from Cornwall Council, 1 September 2016

Verbal update given at the meeting

Since the last Board meeting much of my time for Healthwatch Cornwall has been concerned with internal issues, including supporting staff in the absence of the CEO and over the office move. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their continued commitment and hard work over what has been a challenging summer.