

## Chair's report

### Purpose

1. To update the Board on recent meetings I have attended on behalf of Healthwatch (see Appendix 1). In addition I have held numerous meetings with our managers and NEDs in person, via zoom/teams and by telephone.

### Key Issues

2. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of May we were delighted to welcome Jess Slater as our new CEO following an extensive and robust advertising/appointment process.

Jess joins us from the SERVE charity in Northamptonshire where she has worked as a manager and CEO for the last nine years. She was also a leader in North Northamptonshire ICS.

I have spent some time with Jess ensuring she has a full and speedy induction and supporting her through the first few weeks in her new role.

Jess will be bringing her initial thoughts and reflections to the Board Development meeting later in July.

3. I wish to thank in particular Carole and Caroline for their support during the period we were without a CEO and to Ann and Jonathan for their wise counsel and practical help over the last six months. In fact, the whole organisation stepped up to enable our Healthwatch to continue to provide an excellent service and I am grateful to all staff, volunteers and NEDs who ensured this was made possible.
4. I have completed a full round of annual 1 to 1s with all Non-Executive Directors and I am most grateful for all the challenge, support and ideas you gave me. I listened closely to the advice I was given. I have also completed my own appraisal conducted by our two Deputy Chairs which again was very helpful for me personally.
5. At present Healthwatch England are leading a review of the network's sustainability. It is clear we are underfunded. The review is looking at both the level of funding required and who should provide it. I believe at the same time we should look at how effective and efficient we are and in doing so reflect on the shape and size of

the network. Should there be fewer local Healthwatch and should they be contiguous with ICB areas? We achieved that by merging Peterborough and Cambridgeshire some time ago.

6. At the time of writing the general election result is unknown but the last few weeks have seen all major political parties acknowledge that NHS and Social Care is simply not good enough - something that we and HWE have been saying for some time! Whoever takes charge of running the country needs to ensure Health and Social Care is top of the agenda is "fixed" in the long term for the people we serve.

Action required by the Board.

The Board is asked to note the contents of this report.

Author: Stewart Francis

10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Appendix 1

### Meetings attended by the Chair – 27th March 2024 to 10<sup>th</sup> July

Meeting	Date
Meeting Chair LMC	4 Apr
HWE Chairs meeting	8 Apr
Meeting CCC Commissioners	10 Apr
ICB/ CPFT Rapid Quality Review	10 Apr
NED 1 to 1s x 3	19 Apr
NED 1 to 1s x 2	24 Apr
Meeting Chair CPFT	26 Apr
NED 1 to 1	26 Apr
ICB Meeting	29 Apr

Meeting HW CEO	8 May
ICB Board and Development session	10 May
HW Board Development session	15 May
HWE Sustainability meeting	16 May
ICB Net Zero meeting	17 May
NED 1 to 1	22 May
CEO meeting	3 June
HW Summit meeting	10 June
HW GPG meeting	12 June
Key Theatre Summit Recce	17 June
NED 1 to 1	18 June
HW/PPG meeting	24 June
ICB report & accounts meeting	26 June
HW Summit meeting	1 July
Chair appraisal	3 July
HWE Chairs meeting	8 July
Jt ICB/ NWAFT Board meeting - Hinchingbrooke Hospital	9 July