

Committee: Merton Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 4 June 2013

Agenda item: 11

Wards: All

Subject: Healthwatch Merton Implementation Plan

Lead officer: Chris Frost – Chief Executive, MVSC

Lead member: Councillor Linda Kirby – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Kris Witherington, Community Engagement Manager

Recommendations:

A That the Board note the implementation plan for Healthwatch Merton.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Board on the progress to date and the plans for developing the new Healthwatch service for Merton.

2. DETAILS

2.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 included a requirement on local authorities to establish a local Healthwatch in their area. This duty replaced the duty to establish a Local Involvement Network (LINK) from 1 April 2013.

2.2 As previously reported to the Board, on 23 April, Merton Voluntary Service Council (MVSC) was awarded the contract to deliver Healthwatch Merton in March 2013. A two-year contract has been agreed and signed.

2.3 MVSC has developed an implementation plan with key milestones for the development of Healthwatch Merton. This is provided as Appendix 1.

2.4 In the short term the key priorities will be the recruitment of the new staff team and the development of communication channels.

2.5 Parts of the work plan will be based on consultation work previously undertaken by LINK Merton. In addition engaging local organisations and individuals in the Better Services Better Value consultation will be a priority.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1 No alternative options are suggested.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1 LINK Merton undertook a range of consultation activities during 2012 to develop a work plan. Priorities from this work plan will continue under Healthwatch Merton in the short term before further consultation will take place to identify future priorities.

5. TIMETABLE

5.1 The timetable for the key milestones is set out in Appendix 1.

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The contract for Healthwatch Merton will be for £129,445 in 2013/14 and £125,085 in 2014/15. Quarterly financial monitoring against this will be provided to the Council.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Provision of an effective Healthwatch Merton is a statutory requirement under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Healthwatch Merton is subject to MVSC's Equalities Policy. The contract requires Healthwatch Merton to monitor use of the service and report quarterly to the Council.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Healthwatch Merton is subject to MVSC's Health and Safety Policies.

11. APPENDICES - THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix 1 – Healthwatch Implementation Plan

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Health and Social Care Act 2012.