

Committee: Merton Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 28 January 2014

Wards: All

Subject: Healthwatch Merton Update

Lead officer: Barbara Price – Healthwatch lead Trustee for MVSC

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

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Dave Curtis, Healthwatch Merton Manager

Recommendations:

- A That the Board note the progress made by Healthwatch Merton.
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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 on-going developments within the 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 was been agreed and signed.
- 2.3 As reported to the Board on 4 June, MVSC developed an implementation plan with key milestones for the development of Healthwatch Merton. An update on this plan was provided to the Board on 1 October.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 sets out activity undertaken between September and December 2013 and the main tasks for the next quarter.
- 2.5 Key achievements over the last quarter include delivering the Merton Engage event with Merton CCG, the JSNA consultation event with Public Health, delivering three newsletters and raising awareness at a series of community meetings.

2.6 The main tasks for the next quarter will include successfully developing the new signposting service and the operational reference group.

2.7 Work has also begun on identifying the priorities for Healthwatch Merton in 2014 based on public and stakeholder feedback.

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. 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 Merton Work Report

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Health and Social Care Act 2012.

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