

Written representation in relation to Agenda item 14 – Motions on Notice – Protecting York’s Independent Patient Voice – Healthwatch

I would like to support Councillor Steels-Walshaw motion concerning Healthwatch York. It has taken a lot of hard work on behalf of the people of York to take on the public and organisations concerning Health and Social Care within the York area. Bringing together the public and those who design the services has been beneficial to all sectors and has been cost effective.

It is all too easy to say you have heard the voice of the public but Healthwatch York can provide the evidence and have published many reports to back this up. These reports have been welcomed by both the public and the organisations concerned. To collate all the mental health services in one guide was welcomed by all concerned and the question as to why this was not done before goes to show an independent view of these services is needed.

Healthwatch York have gained respect from both sides and have proven how well they operate with such a small staff and their volunteers. It would be a pity to see this go to waste.

York should be seen as a progressive City who listen to their residents and I hope you will work towards continuing this service.

Lesley Pratt