

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26th November 2014

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

Healthwatch: Performance Update 2014/15 - first 6 months report

Summary

1. This report updates members on the current progress of Healthwatch York in delivering the service set out in the contract with the Council.

Background

2. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 which gave local authorities direct accountability for health improvement also required all local authorities in England to commission a Healthwatch service from 1st April 2013.
3. Following a competitive tendering exercise the Council contracted with York Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) for provision of the service. The contract commenced on 1 May 2013 and runs initially to 31 March 2015; however, the Council has given notice of exercising its right to extend the contract by one year, to 31 March 2016.
4. The service specification, setting out what is required under the contract, is attached at Annex 1. Monitoring has previously been undertaken at officer level; however, given the importance of the service provided it is considered that a report should be made twice a year to scrutiny, in line with other externally funded bodies. The first report, which covers the first 6 months of 2014/15 is attached at Annex 2. As this reporting regime develops it will be possible to add further information on particular issues that Healthwatch is dealing with.

Options

5. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

Council Plan

6. Healthwatch contributes to Building Strong Communities, and Protecting Vulnerable People.

Implications

7. **Finance:** The contract sum for 2014/15 is £140k. For 2015/16 this will reduce to £115k.
8. The report has no additional implications relating to: Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or Property.

Risk Management

9. This report is for information and there are no risks to consider.

Recommendations

10. That Members comment upon the performance of Healthwatch York.
Reason: To help monitor the service received under the contract and to note the service issues that Healthwatch are dealing with.

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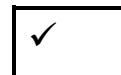
**Report
Approved**



Date 17.11.14.

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

1. Service Specification
2. Healthwatch York Manager's report