

This paper provides information about Healthwatch Southwark Governance and Priority areas of work.

1. Governance arrangements

Prior to April 2013 Healthwatch documents stated that it was to be a body incorporate which could be a standalone organisation or subsidiary of an organisation. Since then the requirements changed and currently Healthwatch Southwark is within Community Action Southwark (CAS) as CAS has the contract with Southwark Council.

The Healthwatch Board is a formal sub-committee of Community Action Southwark (CAS) and reports to the CAS Trustee Board. They provide strategic guidance and support for the work of Healthwatch Southwark.

Board members:

- Southwark Disability and Mobility Forum - Andrew Rice
- Cambridge House - Karin Woodley
- Faces in Focus - Hazel Saunders
- Age UK Lewisham and Southwark- Jacky Bourke-White
- Forum for Equalities and Human rights and Citizen's Advice Bureau- Sally Causer
- Southwark Carers- Verinder Mander
- Southwark LGBT Network- Gaby Charing, Member
- Southwark Refugee Communities Forum- Eltayeb Hassan

The current Governance arrangements were reviewed at the September Board meeting where the Board considered three options as below:

- Option 1 - a wholly independent HWS
- Option 2 - current arrangement of HWS Sub- committee of the CAS Board and HWS being within CAS
- Option 3- establishing HWS as a subsidiary of CAS

The advantages and disadvantages of each option were discussed including the need to concentrate efforts and resources on HWS development including its legitimacy and accessibility. Potential legal issues were also considered. The Board decided that Healthwatch Southwark sub- committee to remain in place with the proviso that the Board will review the Governance arrangements in the next financial year. The July Board meeting will consider the issue again.

Board recruitment

We are currently recruiting a minimum of two new Board lay members which includes the Chair of Healthwatch Southwark. These roles are open to all residents of Southwark. Applicants will have an informal interview and we hope to have them in place by March 2014.

2. Priorities

Priorities (Completion date August 2014)	Rationale
Mental Health services (Access to) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) - Transitions from Children’s to Adult Service - Mental and Physical Health of Older People 	Major changes happening in social care Day service opportunities, service user involvement within South London & Maudsley NHS Trust, primary, secondary and community care.
GP Access	Different communities have raised issues re. physical access, appointments, registration. Health & Adult Social Care CC Scrutiny Sub-committee have Access to Health services as a review subject
Social Care (focusing on those not meeting the FACS eligibility criteria)	A range of sources siting concern around the availability of support/ services for those who do not qualify to receive Personal Budgets
Sexual & Reproductive Health Services	Major issues in Southwark (& Lambeth) around HIV

A ‘watch list’ captures a wider range of services and issues that we will also be monitoring including services for people with Diabetes, Cancer care and Personalisation.

Local residents gave their feedback on the priorities at our Building Our Network event on 17th December. The report is available at request.

We have signed up to a joint working agreement with other 5 Healthwatch bodies in South East London to work together on pieces of work that are related to all of our boroughs.

3. Engagement

We have carried out focus groups with the Latin American Communities and the Deaf Support Group in Southwark. Throughout January and February we have been chairing the Health and Wellbeing Board 1000 Lives Engagement Steering Group. Stories have been collected based on people’s experiences of accessing and receiving health and social care services, other aspects of their wellbeing which will influence the production of the next Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. We also carried out a small piece of engagement with Kindred Minds Group focusing on IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies).