

	<p>Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>20 October 2014</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Healthwatch Update Report</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Governance Service</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Anita Vukomanovic – Governance Service Officer anita.vukomanovic@barnet.gov.uk – 020 8359 7034</p>

Summary

The Chairman has invited representatives from Healthwatch Barnet to provide the Committee with an update on their recent activities, as relevant to the Committee’s Terms of Reference.

Representatives will be in attendance on the evening to provide the update and also to respond to questions from the Committee.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Committee note the update from Healthwatch Barnet and ask appropriate questions.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This update from Healthwatch Barnet will provide the Committee with an oversight of the work that Healthwatch Barnet are currently undertaking within the Borough.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendation provides the Committee with the opportunity to highlight issues of interest and concern, and to make recommendations on any arising matters to Healthwatch Barnet.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Any recommendations made by the Committee will be followed up by the Governance Service with Healthwatch Barnet, with any requests for information being disseminated as appropriate.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

Healthwatch will be the primary vehicle through which users of health and care in the Borough will have their say and recommend improvements. These should lead to improved, more customer focused outcomes for the objectives in the Health and Well Being Strategy 2012-15 and in the Corporate Plan 2012-13, specifically under 'Sharing Opportunities and Responsibilities'.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 The Healthwatch Contract was awarded by Cabinet Resources Committee on 25 February 2013 to CommUNITY Barnet. The Healthwatch contract value is £197,361 per annum. The contract commenced on 1 April 2013 and expires on 31 March 2016; the contract sum received is £592,083. The contract provides for a further extension of up to two years which, if implemented, would give a total contract value of £986,805.

- 5.2.2 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 Sections 221 to 227 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as amended by Sections 182 to 187 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, and regulations subsequently issued under these sections, govern the establishment of Healthwatch, its functions and the responsibility of local authorities to commission local Healthwatch.

5.3.2 The Council's Constitution (Responsibility for Functions) sets out the terms of reference of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as having the following role:

“To perform the overview and scrutiny role in relation to health issues which impact upon the residents of the London Borough of Barnet and the functions services and activities of the National Health Service (NHS) and NHS bodies located within the London Borough of Barnet and in other areas.”

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 Update reports provide the Committee with the opportunity to maintain oversight on the work of Healthwatch Barnet. Ceasing to carry out the visits removes the opportunity for an additional level of scrutiny to assure the quality of service provision

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the committee should consider:

- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
- The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

5.5.2 The Council is required to give due regard to its public sector equality duties as set out in the Equality Act 2010 and as public bodies, Health Partners are also subject to equalities duties contained within legislation, most notably s149 of the Equality Act 2010; consideration of equalities issues should therefore form part of their reports.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 None.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None.