

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen Public Meeting

Tuesday 17th July 2018, 11am-12.30pm

Welcome and introductions

Sir Bill Taylor opened the meeting and thanked all for attending. Abdul Mulla introduced himself as Interim CEO and introduced staff: Sarah Johns - Interim Project Manager, Sharon Hardman - Enter and View & Volunteer Coordinator, Saliha Bax - Signposting & Amplify Coordinator, and Chloe Dobson - Senior Administrator.

AM Brief update on Healthwatch BwD

New starters include Abdul Mulla (Interim Chief Officer) and Sarah Johns (Interim Project Manager).

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen (BwD) will be moving location to Bangor Street Community Centre which will not impact access. Public events and regular signposting and information events will still be held in central locations accessible for the public.

There have been changes at Healthwatch BwD over the last twelve months, but we maintain the same focus and commitment as an organisation to the community of Blackburn with Darwen.

AM introduced Board Members at Healthwatch: Sir Bill Taylor - Chair, Vivienne King - Vice-Chair (apologies noted), Barbara Clay, Ian Clark (apologies noted) and Mohammed Tayyab Sidat (apologies noted).

SBT thanked Board Members for their hard work over the last few months especially.

QUESTION: Is there a maximum number of Board Members? ANSWERED by Sir Bill Taylor: There is no maximum number and Healthwatch currently have 5 Board Members which is above the minimum required however Healthwatch will be looking to recruit additional members later in the year.

Guest speakers

- Harry Catherall (Chief Executive BwD Borough Council) - Harry Catherall's apologies were noted.
- Dominic Harrison (Director of Public Health BwD Borough Council) - Dominic Harrison presented the challenges and current state of Blackburn with Darwen. (Slides shared on HW website).

QUESTION: Who will form the scrutiny committee for the reforms highlighted in Dominic Harrison's presentation?

ANSWERED by Sir Bill Taylor and Dominic Harrison: democratic services have had hits with funding but do still have scrutiny committees which will look at the reforms within their area of expertise.

Overview of workplan 2018/19

AM presented the 2018/19 workplan for Healthwatch BwD. (Slides shared on HW website)

QUESTION: Will Healthwatch BwD work link in with the Local Integrated Care Partnership?

ANSWERED by Abdul Mulla: Healthwatch BwD work will link in with this and Healthwatch also aim to have a seat on the Integrated Partnerships Board.

QUESTION: Is there a conflict of interest with Abdul Mulla being the Chief Officer of both Healthy Living and Healthwatch BwD? Will Abdul Mulla be able to stay impartial?

ANSWERED by Sir Bill Taylor: there are separate governance reporting and structures in place with two separate boards of Trustees for each organization and other appropriate safeguards are in place to ensure that the integrity of Healthwatch is not breached.

ANSWERED by Abdul Mulla: In addition to Bill's comments, Healthy Living do not provide health services and receive no funding from the Local Authority or NHS/CCG. Healthy Living receive external funding via trusts and grants for community development activities.

Update about Healthwatch organisations: Healthwatch BwD continue to work with Healthwatch England. Sir Bill Taylor set up and now chairs the Healthwatch North West meetings. There is an emphasis on Healthwatch organisations working better together for consistency of approach, avoidance of duplication, focus on key issues across the whole North West in order to have greater impact as a network.

QUESTION: Why is Healthwatch BwD moving to Bangor Street Community Centre?

ANSWERED by Abdul Mulla: Healthwatch will save £7,000 a year by relocating which was the main deciding factor.

QUESTION: Does the link of Healthy Living working with Stanley Grange not present a conflict of interest for Healthwatch?

ANSWERED by Abdul Mulla: Healthy Living's work for Stanley Grange is funded by Future directions and is not public money therefore does not present a conflict of interests.

Sir Bill Taylor thanked all for coming and closed the meeting.