

Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 11th September 2025
 Time: 17:30-20:30pm
 Venue: The John Godber Centre, Ogle Street, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 7FQ

Attendees: Sarah Collis (Chair), Deborah Wilson, Dave Brennan, Karla Capstick, Obai Kurd Ali, Sabrina Taylor, Fiona Dawson, Kerry Pickaver (minutes). Prospective new Board Members - Ian Holden, Deborah Douglas, Jerome Douglas.

Apologies: Kinsi Clarke

Agenda item	Discussion/decisions	Action
1. Introductions and welcome		
2. Apologies and minutes of last meeting)	<p>Apologies received from Kinsi Clarke. The chair welcomed all to the meeting, including 3 new prospective Board Members.</p> <p>A quick round of introductions was made.</p> <p>Outstanding actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FD to send podcasts out to the Board Members. FD added that we are trialling the use of podcasts in future reports. AI can summarise reports or be used for a deep-dive. All AI models have bias but are generally free of political opinion. • Real Living Wage - HWNN will have to operate as a Real Living Wage employer for some time before accreditation as such. • EDI Strategy - ST to share with Board Members. • Board member recruitment - successful, but still ongoing. <p>The June 2025 minutes were agreed as a true record.</p>	<p>FD</p> <p>ST</p>
3. Board Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ST presented the Board report in its new format. The new image of our strategy is the first iteration to be developed further. The team met recently with the programme director for Race Health Inequalities. The team will now do some focused work on EQIA's - one aspect of the inequalities matrix. SC added that different communities are not having equitable experiences when 	

	<p>accessing health and care services and that the matrix could be tailored for use in our work. ST to share the matrix with the Board. ST noted that our strategy is still relevant regardless of how we move forward (given the recent announcement to abolish Healthwatch). SC added that the only thing removed is our statutory powers. DB said it is the ‘how’ that will change for us.</p> <p>External environment - the Penny Dash review, the publication of the 10-year plan, the ICB mergers and cuts, local government reorganisation and political changes in our locality. Funding for the next year for local Healthwatch has been confirmed by the ministry of housing, communities and local government. As changes are expected in October 2026 (but could be as early as April 2026), we need to have a clear picture by December 2025. There will be a budget announcement and the Kings’ Speech in November 2025. SC added that information will be fed into our Risk Register when it is available. SFHT have a new CEO; Kathy McLean has been appointed as Chair to the newly merged ICB. Nottingham is now part of an integrated team pilot as part of a broader Community Transformation Programme. This aim to create and embed "place-based" community teams across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to provide more joined-up health and care services. ST also reported recent media coverage for HWNN via Notts TV and radio. DB added that hospital rankings/league tables have also been published.</p> <p>ST said that we have now published our GP access report, illustrating a mixed picture for patients. There are also 2 Enter & View reports in the pipeline. Progress with our Enter & View programme has been excellent and there is some follow-up work from the Showcase in development.</p> <p>Staffing - ST reported a full staff team who feel they are provided with a positive and supportive environment - the recent staff survey being overwhelmingly positive. There is risk due to an uncertain future; however, the Board can support by providing clear strategic direction. Staff training & development - a process is now in place to determine priority.</p> <p>Income generation - this needs to have a link within our Strategy to find opportunities to bid for commissioned work using a prioritisation tool, along with a laser-focus to ensure we are not off-mission. Our service offers would be ‘voices’ and training. We have a good track record of delivering commissioned pieces of work. DW added that the new footprint across 3 counties may provide opportunities to work with new organisations. ST added that we have been in talks with Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust regarding a</p>	ST
--	--	----

	<p>repeat of our Serious Mental Illness Report. Work we've done on a patient & carers' reference group was very positively received.</p> <p>The new style Board report was approved. Trustee Actions and Oversight to be moved forward to the beginning of the report.</p>	ST
4. Finance update - Mid-way update	<p>DB requested that the table in the new report (To note, to discuss, to approve) be replicated in future reports. He added that the new style report was clear and well set-out. Finance Sub-group examines the numbers in detail which sit underneath the report. The term 'Core Funding' will be renamed 'Statutory Funding' and is just one of our funding streams.</p>	ST
5. The future of HW - Campaign so far (Local/National).	<p>ST shared an update from the HW Network with the Board. Progress has been slow. Key priorities for us are local and national messaging. ST has met with some of our local MP's and we have been pushing the petition (open until February 26) which has now plateaued. There are 2 versions - online and paper, but they cannot be combined. We will be inviting the HWE representatives to local HW meetings for updates. We've had strong support from South Notts Place Based Partnership who have written to the Secretary of State about the abolishment of Healthwatch. ST will write to the other PBP's in our area to garner support.</p> <p>SC added that we need to push for a joint meeting with our MP's to ensure that they are fully aware of what is happening in their constituencies.</p> <p>ST added that campaigning is allowed, but it has to be proportionate. SC said that this is a whole-team concern.</p> <p>DB said that we need to consider if 'Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Ltd' is the right name for us going forward. What we offer is something more than what Healthwatch is; and needs to be reflective of our strategy with brand identity.</p> <p>FD noted that many organisations which deliver a Healthwatch function do not have Healthwatch as their lead name.</p> <p>Advisory Group - SC advised that we hope to have our first group in place by the end of 2025 and we would consult that group on a name change for the organisation. OKA said we could ask the community to rename us. ST will send out our Comms Plan to the Board.</p>	ST ST ST
6. New Trustees	<p>The 3 prospective Trustees in attendance were asked to step out of the meeting whilst their appointment to the HWNN Board was discussed.</p> <p>SC (Chair) proposed Jerome Douglas as a new Trustee. This was seconded by Deborah Wilson. SC proposed Debra Douglas as a new Trustee, this was seconded by</p>	

	<p>Dave Brennan. SC proposed Ian Holden as a new Trustee, this was seconded by Obai Kurd Ali. All present were in favour of the co-option of the three new members to the HWNN Board of Trustees.</p> <p>KP was asked to check the appointment date of the existing Trustees, and the terms of tenure for Trustees and inform SC.</p> <p>SC will send out a skills audit to the Board members to enable further recruitment to any skill gaps.</p> <p>ST added that the team need to revisit our strategy and receive strategic direction from the Board. SC said there would be another information session for the Board to be held and would send a poll for a suitable day/time. At our AGM in November, we will announce our direction of travel.</p>	<p>KP</p> <p>SC</p> <p>SC</p>
AOB	<p>Companies House Identity Verification - KP reminded all Trustees to complete the ID Verification sign-up process and forward details to her. This is necessary to enable filing of our confirmation statement later in the year.</p> <p>KaC will be standing down from her role as Healthwatch representative with NHCT governing body, and will ask if they require a replacement. SC thanked KaC for her efforts in this role.</p> <p>Volunteer expenses - KP to send the volunteer expense claim form and guidance to all Trustees.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>KP</p>

Date of next Board meeting: 18th December 2025 followed by Board Christmas meal.