

18 NOVEMBER 2014

Call-in of Cabinet Decision on 'Local Healthwatch'

Ward(s) All

Related Portfolios: Councillor I Robertson – Health
Councillor D Coughlan – Social Care
Councillor K Hussain – Communities, Leisure and Culture

Report:

At its meeting on 29 October 2014 Cabinet approved a decision to approve an extension to the existing Healthwatch Walsall contract, for a further 1 year, to then expire on 31 March 2016. (2) That the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Director Neighbourhoods work with Healthwatch to address concerns about public engagement and transparency of decision making.

In line with provisions contained within Part 4.5 of the Walsall Council Constitution the decision was 'called in' by the Chairman of the Panel.

The reason for the call in was:

To respond to the requirement of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Healthwatch contract was entered into in March, 2013 for an initial term of two years with an option to extend for a further year. Consideration of its extension for 2015/2016 provides opportunity to reflect on its effectiveness to date and identify areas of the contract which could be strengthened to further improve services for the residents of Walsall.

As Chair of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel, I want to be assured that prior to the decision being implemented by Cabinet to extend the contract:-

- *Evidence was provided that the contract remains fit for purpose;*
- *Evidence was provided that sufficient monitoring had taken place in terms of activities and outputs and that the criteria for success had been reviewed;*
- *Healthwatch had effectively delivered all functions in year 2 (to date) as set out within the contract;*
- *Evidence was provided that Healthwatch is fulfilling its role to signpost to the advocacy service and that this service is operating effectively and in accordance with the contract;*
- *Service users had been consulted to seek their views on the current service and the proposed decision to extend that service.*

A copy of the received call-in notice is appended to this report.

The Social Care and Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel are invited to review the decision taken in light of the call-in and are able to make recommendations to Cabinet on alternative courses of action should Members wish to do so.

Recommendations:

That Members consider the call-in of 'Local Healthwatch' and consider whether they wish to make any recommendations to Cabinet.

Contact Officer:

Nikki Gough – Committee Business and Governance Manager

01922 654767

Goughn@walsall.gov.uk