



## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 22 JUNE 2017**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **HEALTHWATCH LEICESTERSHIRE RECOMMISSIONING**

##### **Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with recommissioning a Healthwatch service for Leicestershire.

##### **Link to the local Health and Care System**

2. The purpose of Healthwatch is to promote continuous improvement in local health and social care services and achieve improved outcomes for local people. The contract scope includes services that are related to all of the work-streams of Better Care Together and are delivered within the context of the local strategic framework including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Better Care Fund Plan and the developing Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

##### **Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board note this report.

##### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

4. A Review of Healthwatch Leicestershire and proposals for subsequent recommissioning were reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 when it was resolved that the report be noted.
5. At its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016 the County Council Cabinet considered the Review of Healthwatch Leicestershire and resolved:-
  - a) That the outcome of the review to support the recommissioning of a Healthwatch service for Leicestershire be noted;
  - b) That it be noted that the recommendations of the review report will be considered by Leicester and Rutland Healthwatch commissioners to explore opportunities for increased collaboration and joint working;
  - c) That the Chief Executive be authorised to -
    - I. Procure a new provider of the Healthwatch Leicestershire service which will be a freestanding social enterprise;
    - II. Extend the current contract with Voluntary Action Leicestershire as necessary, potentially up until 31 March 2018, if this is required for market development and/or in order to align procurement timescales with other local Healthwatch services.

## **Background**

6. The Healthwatch Leicestershire (HWL) contract is currently delivered by Voluntary Action Leicestershire. The contract has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 to align with the Healthwatch contracts of the City Council and Rutland Council so as to enable joint commissioning.
7. Key recommendations of the Review of Healthwatch Leicestershire included those that a future Healthwatch service provider should be independent (with control of its own finances, strategic direction and working practices) and that there should be effective collaboration and partnership working with other local Healthwatch organisations which could potentially be achieved through (amongst other things) joint commissioning.

## **Recommissioning proposals and consultation**

8. To progress the recommissioning process, discussions have been held with Healthwatch commissioners at Leicester City Council and Rutland County Council and a joint public consultation is proposed with a view to potentially commissioning a joint service with the procurement process led by Leicester City Council.
9. A public consultation is proposed to be carried out between late July and early September 2017, after consideration of participation in the process by Rutland County Council Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The consultation will seek views on the proposed service model and specification principles. The consultation questionnaire will be accessible via the web sites of Healthwatch and commissioning authorities. Market testing to get more detailed feedback from potential bidders is to be carried out beforehand.
10. Whilst a range of social enterprises will be eligible to bid for the tender the specification and evaluation method statement will reflect the importance that commissioning partners place on financial, strategic and organisational independence and an organisational focus on the delivery of Healthwatch services. It is proposed that the contract will be for 3 years with the option to extend for up to a further two years.

## **Resource Implications**

11. Department of Health funding for Healthwatch and associated contracts (Independent NHS Advocacy Services (ICAS) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) in hospitals) is provided via the Local Reform and Communities Voices Grant (LRCVG). The potential pooled budget for a joint Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Healthwatch service is c£422,000pa.

## **Timetable for Decisions**

12. It is proposed that the Healthwatch tender will be advertised in September 2017 and awarded in December 2017 with a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

## **Background papers**

Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 15 September 2016

<http://ow.ly/l01W30cydKk>

Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 17 November 2016

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s124178/Healthwatch%20Review.pdf>

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None

### **Officer to Contact**

Kristy Ball, Communities Team Leader, Leicestershire County Council

Telephone: 0116 305 8099

Email: [Kristy.ball@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Kristy.ball@leics.gov.uk)

Sarah Carter/Mike Thomson, Communities Business Partner/Policy Officer, Leicestershire County Council  
Tel: 0116 305 8098 /0116 305 7090

Email: [sarah.carter@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.carter@leics.gov.uk) [mike.thomson@leics.gov.uk](mailto:mike.thomson@leics.gov.uk)

### **Relevant Impact Assessments**

#### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

13. Healthwatch Leicestershire is committed to reducing inequalities in health and social care outcomes and this priority will be reflected in future commissioning.

#### **Partnership Working and associated issues**

14. Partnership working is fundamental to the work of Healthwatch Leicestershire and will be central to the future service specification.

This page is intentionally left blank