

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE ADULT SERVICES AND HOUSING POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 19 SEPTEMBER 2014

SUBJECT OF REPORT: HEALTHWATCH NORTH SOMERSET ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: Georgie Bigg, Chair HealthWatch North Somerset

Key Decision: no

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel are asked to consider the report.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The attached annual reports covers the first full year of operation of HealthWatch North Somerset. The report is presented to the panel for their information and to give members the opportunity to explore with the chair of HealthWatch North Somerset its work to date and plans for the future.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The Health and Social Care act 2012 places a duty on local authorities with adult social care responsibilities to commission an organisation to undertake the HealthWatch statutory functions. HealthWatch North Somerset was established in October 2012 as an independent community interest company.

3. DETAILS

- 3.1 The panel has been aware of the development of HealthWatch in North Somerset. It has received reports about the process to set-up and establish a HealthWatch which became operational in April 2013.
- 3.2 The attached annual report covers 2013-14 which is the first full year of HealthWatch North Somerset operation. The format and content of the report is set-out in statute and guidance.

4. Consultation

Not applicable.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 HealthWatch North Somerset is funded by North Somerset Council with funding from central government provided in the council's annual funding settlement. This funding is not ring-fenced.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Not applicable.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 One of HealthWatch North Somerset key roles is to work and engage with "under-represented" and "hard-to-reach" groups.

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None.

10. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable.

AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

**APPENDIX 1 – HEALTHWATCH NORTH SOMERSET ANNUAL REPORT
2013-14**