

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE ADULT SERVICES & HOUSING POLICY & SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 6 JULY 2023

SUBJECT OF REPORT: CO-OPTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF HEALTHWATCH

TOWN OR PARISH: N/A

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: BRENT CROSS, POLICY AND SCRUTINY SENIOR OFFICER

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATION

That the Adult Services & Housing Policy & Scrutiny Panel (ASH) co-opt the Chairman of HealthWatch North Somerset, Georgie Bigg, as a non-voting member of the Panel.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Chairman of Healthwatch North Somerset was co-opted as a non-voting member of the ASH Panel under the previous administration in November 2019. This followed from Members noting that the Chairman of Healthwatch had been co-opted to the Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and the feeling that the inclusion of the Chairman of Healthwatch would be an asset to the Panel.

2. POLICY

Draft Guidance from the Local Government Association to accompany new Local Authority Public Health, Health & Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny regulations (which came into force on 1st April 2013) emphasises the importance of closer working between local authority scrutiny committees and HealthWatch.

3. DETAILS

Healthwatch is the independent national champion for people who use social care services. There is a local Healthwatch in every area of England looking to find out what people like about services and what could be improved. Nationally and locally, Healthwatch has the power to ensure that those in charge of health and social care "hear people's voices" as well as seeking the public's views and encouraging health and social care services to involve people in decisions that affect them.

Considering the statutory role of Healthwatch in respect of adult social care services and the wider trend toward increasing integration between health and social care service

planning and provision, it is proposed that the Panel formally co-opt the Chairman of the Healthwatch organisation serving North Somerset.

Section 21(10) of the Local Government Act 2000 provides that overview and scrutiny committees (panels) may co-opt non-voting members.

4. CONSULTATION

None

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

10. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Draft LGA Guidance to accompany new Local Authority Public Health, Health & Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny regulations

Local Government Act 2000

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