

# North Somerset Council

## Report to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date of Meeting: 12 October 2023**

**Subject of Report: Healthwatch Annual Report**

**Town or Parish: All**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Georgie Bigg, Chairman Healthwatch**

**Key Decision: No**

**Reason:** It does not meet the criteria for a key decision.

### **Recommendations**

That the Panel review and feedback on the Healthwatch Annual Report 2022/23.

#### **1. Summary of Report**

That the Panel review and feedback on the Healthwatch Annual Report which sets out its activities and how these have made a difference during 2022/23.

#### **2. Policy**

Draft Guidance from the Local Government Association to accompany new Local Authority Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny regulations (which came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

Healthwatch is the independent national champion for people who use health and social care services. There is a local Healthwatch in each 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.

#### **3. Details**

The Healthwatch Annual Report is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **4. Consultation**

N/A

#### **5. Financial Implications**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) fund funds the work of Healthwatch. DHSC gives money to local councils so they can commission an effective local Healthwatch service. This ensures local Healthwatch have the resources they need to run a high-quality service for their community.

To enable tracking what is happening to its investment, the Government requires local Healthwatch to report every year how much funding they expect to receive and publish this information.

**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. Corporate Implications**

N/A

**11. Options Considered**

N/A

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**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 Healthwatch Annual Report 2022/23