

North Somerset Council

Report to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 14 March 2024

Subject of Report: Healthwatch report: Dental update and North Somerset Quarter 3 public feedback and insights snapshot

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 findings in respect of:

- Dental services; and
- “Local Voices” quarter 3 (Oct-Dec 2023) North Somerset public feedback and insights snapshot.

1. Summary of Report

This report refers to and appends the following Healthwatch reports and supporting information:

- Dental update from Healthwatch NS March 2024 (attached as paper/presentation 9.1)
- Lack of NHS dental appointments widens health inequalities (attached as paper 9.2)
- Key findings from Healthwatch England’s national dental polling in 2022 (attached as paper 9.3)
- Quarter 3 (October to December 2023) public feedback and insights snapshot (presentation attached as paper 9.4)
- Local Voices – quarter 3: October – December 2023 report (attached as paper 9.5)

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Draft Guidance from the Local Government Association to accompany new Local Authority Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny regulations (which came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 1st 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

Members are invited to review and comment on the appended Healthwatch reports and supporting information.

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:

- Dental update from Healthwatch NS March 2024 (paper 9.1)
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- Local Voices Quarter 3: October – December 2023 (paper 9.5)