

**Annual General Meeting**

9th October 2018

Nailsea Methodist Church, Silver Street, Nailsea BS48 2DS

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

**Directors** Georgie Bigg (GB) [Chair]

Dick Whittington (DW) [Treasurer]

Gerry Wadham (GW)

Lance Allen (LA)

Raquel Benzal (RB)

Shaun Fitzpatrick (SF)

**Staff** Eileen Jacques (EJ)

Penny Redman (PR)

Vicky Marriott (VM)

Karen MacVean (KM)

Julia Senior-Smith (JSS)

**Attendees** Mike Newman NSC (Speaker) /Celia Henshall Vision NS/Pete Franklin/Rachel Neville NSCP/Mel Green BNSSG CCG/Angela Perrett NSCP/Liz Kelly/Jenny Tungate YISP (Speaker)/Stefania Rulli Curo (Speaker)/Dr Andrew Burnett Public Health (Speaker)/Tina Huckle-Mills WERN/Cathie Fisher NSC/Mike Veig Home Instead/Alison Blackhall Home Instead;

Mike Bowles MJB Accounting /Betty Carey/ Ann English [AE] (Volunteer)/Tim Evans (Volunteer)/ Laurence Fineman Clarence Park & Graham Road PPG[LF] /Charlotte Giles/Tricia Godfrey (Volunteer) /John Rose (Volunteer)

**Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from: Graham Turner (WAHT), Cllr John Crockford-Hawley, John Popham Winscombe and Banwell PPG, Judith Brown NSCP, Geoff Matthews Mendip Vale PPG, Doreen Smith VANS, Morgan Daly The Care Forum, Sarah Ambe Healthwatch Bristol, Ruth Lough CQC, Mike Lyall Weston-super Mare Mayor, Sheila Smith NSC, Triliria Newbury MFA, Rebecca Balloch UHBl/Lucy Jones BNSSG CCG

1. **Welcome**

**Georgie Bigg (Chair)**

Georgie welcomed everyone to the Healthwatch North Somerset AGM and introduced the Board of Directors and the team. She thanked the volunteers for all their work in the past year especially for their support of the 28 Enter and View visits to GP Practices. She outlined how HWNS work has produced outcomes that benefit patients in North Somerset. This includes the work HWNS has collaborated on with The Diversity Trust whose report on Trans health care and wellbeing has resulted in University Hospital Bristol (UHB) taking on all four recommendations which include Trans awareness training becoming part of all health, care and wellbeing professionals Continuing Professional Development. UHB has asked Equality and Diversity Group to review relevant policies and guidance and has also asked that workforce training and awareness assigns a particular focus on correct use of pronouns. Finally UHB has asked their People Committee to consider how potential negative feelings, attitudes or actions towards Trans people can be addressed in order to challenge transphobia.

1. **Presentation of Finance Report**

**Dick Whittington (Treasurer)**

DW presented the Annual Statement of Accounts 2017/18. He outlined that the core grant reduction had been 20% over the past two years but that with careful internal budgeting the 2017/18 accounts were on budget.

Questions were invited on the Annual Statement of Accounts

Q1. What was the effect on operations this year of having saved £4,000 but having no expenditure on external consultancy (freelance project work)?

A. This has meant we have not been able to pay for extra freelance work and all work has been undertaken by the team.

1. **Election of Directors**

A resolution was put to the vote on a show of hands by Members, Directors retiring by rotation and standing for re-election:

1. Georgie Bigg
2. Dick Whittington

Both Directors were re-elected

1. **The Importance of Intervention**

**Dr Andrew Burnett, Interim Director of Public Health, North Somerset Council**

Dr Burnet provided an insight into the way Public Health North Somerset works with the public to improve long term health by providing interventions to improve people’s diet, reduce alcohol and tobacco use, increase activity levels and their mental health.

Questions were invited from the attendees

**Q1** Are there any benefits of drinking alcohol?

A. We now know any amount of alcohol damages your health. It does have a cultural and social function and helps with loneliness in that way; however, risks are small if drinking less than 14 units a week. There are no longer any differences recognised between the maximum recommended units of alcohol for men and women.

**Q2** Is vaping considered harmful?

A It is 95% less harmful than smoking cigarettes. There is no evidence that young people that vape are more likely to go on to become smokers. It is not currently licensed as a stop smoking resource but there is likely to be a move in that direction.

**Q3** If you don’t drink alcohol are sugary drinks any better for you?

A It’s all a balance. You can find low alcohol and low calorie drinks now which are quite tasty.

**Q4** Is the health picture in North Somerset worse than other parts of the country?

A There are huge levels if inequality in the county. This means the mortality rates are higher in some places compared to others. In Weston there are some of the most deprived parts of the country.

**Q5** You did not mention oral health in your presentation, why not?

A There is not enough time for everything but it is important to say that we have a new generation of people who have really bad teeth and we don’t know if it is poor dental hygiene or because they are drinking more surgery drinks.

**Q6** What would most improve our health as a country?

A Stopping smoking and having a more active lifestyle.

**Q7** What is the effect of the grant reduction to Public Health?

A It has an effect on how much we can do to raise awareness and intervene to prevent ill health.

1. **Interventions for older people**

**Stefania Rulli, Team Leader, Community Connect**

Stefania demonstrated the impact on services such as social services and A&E with a rise on the numbers of older people who are lonely and isolated. She provided a definition of self-care and an insight into how wellbeing practitioners use interventions to work with older people. The presentation provided three in depth case studies of their recent work with older people.

1. **Intervention in action: case studies**

**Jenny Tungate, Youth Inclusion Support Officer, North Somerset Council**

Jenny provided an outline of the support provided by the youth inclusion team who work with young people offering three months of intervention to help with mental health and behavioural support.

1. **Next Steps**

**Mike Newman, Strategy & Policy Development Manager, North Somerset Council**

The Council’s public consultation planned for later in the year on the proposed reprocurement of Healthwatch North Somerset was outlined. The consultation aim will be to ask people about a proposal to merge Healthwatch North Somerset, Healthwatch Bristol and Healthwatch South Gloucestershire from April 2019.

EJ mentioned that there is a statutory requirement that each County must have a Healthwatch and that a merger is not possible.

MN said the proposal is not to merge Healthwatches but to have one contract and maintain three local Healthwatches.

**Q1** Why is this happening?

A To reduce the Council’s liability risk. The Council considered the benefit would be that under the newly combined BNSSG the three Healthwatches would work better together.

**Q2** Who would manage which area?

A This has not been agreed.

**Q3** Isn’t there a time limit for this tender as it is proposed a new contract would start in April 2019?

A The time constraints are challenging.

**Q4** As South Gloucestershire has already completed its public consultation about this proposal, how can North Somerset go forward within the procurement process if our consultation is carried out at this later date?

A North Somerset will be included in the procurement process if we can the consultation can be completed in time otherwise it will join at a later date. Bids can be submitted for the contract for the other two Healthwatch while the North Somerset consultation runs alongside and the procurement for Healthwatch North Somerset would occur separately. It is not yet clear how this will occur.

**Q5** What is the timetable for tendering the South Gloucestershire and Bristol contracts?

A There are two options, tendering with or without North Somerset Healthwatch. Bidders can then decide what they want to bid for.

**Q6** Submitting a single tender and a joint tender would mean double the work for the bidders.

A There would be challenges. The procurements will be on the BNSSG website and the outcomes will be transparent.

**Q7** The merger may save money by halving the funding for each Healthwatch but it would also diminish achievements made due to the independence of Healthwatch North Somerset and reduce its outcomes. It will also limit its function to challenge the Local Authority, especially if the contract is ceded to another local authority to manage.

A The Healthwatches would run in the same way whoever has the contract.

1. **Round up**

**Georgie Bigg (Chair)**

GB thanked the speakers for their valued and interesting contributions to the meeting. She thanked the Board, team and volunteers for their work over the past year and thanked everyone for attending the AGM.