

Healthwatch Board Meeting

7-8pm

Present:

Daniel Singleton (DS), Interim Chair
Val Shaw (VS), Board member
Kim Blyth (KB), Board member
Barbara Sawyer (BS), Board member
David Sollis (DSO), Board member
Elspeth Paisley, (EP), Board member

Also, present:

Manisha Modhvadia (MM), Healthwatch Barking & Dagenham staff member
Richard Vann (RV), Healthwatch Barking & Dagenham staff member

Apologies:

None received

Agenda:

1. Welcome, Introductions and matters arising: Minutes from last team meeting were agreed.

2. Increasing engagement with young people- MM presented the plan to engage with young people-, the board gave feedback and ideas. Suggestions from the Board included:

- Speak to the SWITCH team.
- Utilising strong links Healthwatch already have.
- Talking to parents of young people Healthwatch already know and asking them for feedback.
- Offer CV writing sessions/Interview practice to young people.
- Very limited offers available to young people at the moment- anything to add to young people's CV should get young people interested.
- Younger voices on the board.
- Recruit young people to talk to other young people, vaccinations are a hot topic at the moment.
- HW Essex undertook an art project and included primary schools in the competition.
- Look at social media what is the hot topics amongst young people.
- Use the message "no decision without me"
- Ask Faith Groups what their young people are saying?

3. Board member involvement

KB works across nine GP practices, challenging to sign up for additional responsibilities. Happy to feedback on any themes that she sees trending. Usually thinks of HW when an issue triggers her thoughts.

EP attends some of the same meetings as the Healthwatch team and is happy to represent as a board member. Already spoken to MM about some issues within the system.

DSo felt the team should undertake a skill set of the board, where are the gaps? Happy to provide advice, guide and support, does not live in the borough so cannot provide local intelligence.

RC unable to provide extra resources but can feedback on any information he hears.

4. Vaccinations- What are we hearing? Board discussion

KB raised that the problem locally is uptake. Broadway theatre is a vaccination hub and it seems to be working well. There are communication issues - residents are being sent messages to attend the Excel for their vaccination. That is a real problem, as some of those residents find travelling a challenge. Residents not informed they have the option of asking for a local vaccination hub. Local messaging about this should be made clear.

RC had the vaccine, he believes there is a general mistrust with the establishment overall. There are mix messages one-minute social media reports you should take the second dose of the vaccine after 3 weeks and then it is changed. Even though there is a rational reason for the changes, the mistrust of organisations and politicians means people are taking up the offer of the vaccine.

DS was interested in knowing if care home staff are offered the vaccine when they visit care homes to vaccinate residents. There should be no reason as to why staff cannot be vaccinated at the same time.

EP reported a lot of bureaucracy at first, a lot of paperwork involved, which is taking longer than it should.

There are different ways organisations are taking the vaccination programme forward. For example, where RC works everyone working in the building are offered the vaccine-, the same as NHS Workers, this includes cleaners, food supplies as they are working in a high-risk environment.

KB communication and advice is confusing one minute advice is not to call your GP and then Matt Hancock announced to ring your GP in regards to vaccinations.

DSo suggested that nationally the language needs to change and communication needs to focus on the positives. Let's get some messaging out about vaccinations – get yourself jabbed. Psychological pipeline.

5. Disability project

MM provided a verbal update on the project. MM also requested board members to share any connections they may have. Healthwatch would like to speak to a minimum of 50 residents.

6. AOB

The next board meeting will be in early March.

The meeting was closed.

