

**Membership****Councillors**

Colleen Harwood (Chairman)  
John Allin  
Kate Foale  
Bruce Laughton  
John Ogle  
Jacky Williams

**District Members**

	Trevor Locke	Ashfield District Council
A	Brian Lohan	Mansfield District Council
	David Staples	Newark and Sherwood District Council
A	Griff Wynne	Bassetlaw District Council

**Officers**

Martin Gately	Nottinghamshire County Council
Alison Fawley	Nottinghamshire County Council

**Also in attendance**

Joe Pidgeon	Healthwatch Nottinghamshire
Trudi Cameron	Healthwatch Nottinghamshire
Claire Grainger	Healthwatch Nottinghamshire
Gail Maxwell	Healthwatch Nottinghamshire
Deb Morton	Healthwatch Nottinghamshire

**MINUTES**

The amended minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2014, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 23 June 2014, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **NG25 MORTALITY RATE GROUP – FINAL REPORT**

Councillor Bruce Laughton gave a verbal report on the work of NG25 Mortality Rate Group.

The group was set up by Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group to examine the higher rate of deaths in the NG25 postcode. The Group was originally commissioned for 6 meetings but after the initial meeting the reason for the increase was evident and only 3 meetings were required.

The increase in mortality rates was attributed to the opening of Southwell Court Care Home which had attracted a greater number of elderly people to the area. Analysis of practice data revealed that older people were encouraged to stay in their homes rather than be admitted to hospital. The level of care given was noted as excellent and as an example of best practice in how to improve care of the elderly. Newark & Sherwood CCG planned to extend this example of good practice across the group. Councillor Laughton praised the GPs for being proactive and the CCG for their openness and cooperation with the work of this group.

Members discussed how the statistics for death rates were affected by whether a person died at home or in hospital or as the result of a road traffic accident and how this caused spikes in the data, as shown in the Southwell Court example. It was noted that as it is a national reporting process little can be done to change it.

Councillor Harwood thanked Councillor Laughton and the Group members for their hard work which had resulted in a negative statement being turned into a positive one.

## **HEALTHWATCH**

Joe Pidgeon, Chairman of Healthwatch Nottinghamshire (HWN), and members of the HWN team presented the annual report and business plan.

Mr Pidgeon presented information on the structure and mission of HWN and how it had established itself in its first year. Copies of the Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and Members were invited to feedback their views on the document including length, style and content.

Mr Pidgeon discussed the report and in particular the structure of HWN and how recruitment to the various roles had been undertaken. As HWN is accountable to the public, the board had adopted an open reporting policy. The Advisory Group fulfilled the role of critical friend and had representatives from 17 stakeholder groups. The Prioritisation Panel reviewed issues/problems which had been reported to HWN and discussed appropriate actions. Mr Pidgeon reported that communication had been good in the first year and had

used a variety of media. As a future plan Mr Pidgeon hoped to establish three Have Your Say points in each district.

Members discussed how HWN would develop and strengthen links with stakeholder groups in each district.

Claire Grainger introduced the Business Plan 2014-16 and discussed the short and medium term outcomes and the long term mission statement. The guiding principles reflected HWN's strong commitment to equality and diversity and the themes which had been identified in the setup consultation. Ms Grainger discussed issue 2 of the Have your say report and distributed copies to Members. Ms Grainger drew attention to examples of You said.... We did.... which highlighted how HWN engaged in local issues.

Deb Morton gave Members an overview of volunteering and explained how volunteers played a vital role in developing and adding value to HWN locally and ensured its continued success particularly as resources were limited and Nottinghamshire was a large county.

Members discussed the current funding arrangements for HWN which were in place until 2016 and the implications for the service after that date.

Trudy Cameron informed Members about the work of the Prioritisation Panel who met each month and used a scoring system to review the issues reported to HWN and to make decisions on actions to be taken.

Gail Maxwell explained to Members the important work of outreach volunteers who were involved in many initiatives from distributing leaflets or manning a stall at an event to the Dementia Friends programme which was being developed.

Mr Pidgeon responded to additional questions and comments from Members which included:

- HWN was not accountable to Healthwatch England. A legislative framework was in place but it was up to each regional Healthwatch to decide how this was implemented
- Members identified that the number of missed GP/hospital appointments was a concern financially and for the efficient use of resources and that this might be an area for HWN to review in the future.

Councillor Harwood thanked Mr Pidgeon and his team for their interesting presentation and for their hard work and commitment to HWN

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was discussed and noted.

Members suggested the following items be added to the work programme:

CAMHS (January meeting)

Obesity

Substance misuse

Hospital car parking charges

Misdiagnosis

Martin Gately agreed to circulate the dates for Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meetings which members would be welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.

## **CHAIRMAN**

29 Sept 2014 - Health Scrutiny